United Nations S/PV.7539

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7539th meeting
Tuesday, 20 October 2015, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi	(Spain)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

Letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/793)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-32258 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

Letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/793)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: His Excellency Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly, and His Excellency Mr. Sven Jürgenson, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council.

I propose that the Council invite the Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See to the United Nations to participate in the meeting, in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure and the previous practice in this regard.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/793, which contains a letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I wish to warmly welcome the Deputy Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, and I now give him the floor.

The Deputy Secretary-General: When people think about the United Nations, they often think of the Security Council. On it rests a heavy responsibility: to maintain international peace and security in a troubled, complex and interconnected world. The expectations of the Council and the United Nations as a whole are high around the world, and that is why a debate about its working methods is evidently of interest to many.

Let us recognize that the Council has adapted its working methods considerably over the years, from introducing Council missions to the field to informal interactive dialogues and open thematic debates, to name but a few examples.

The Secretariat has always been and will remain a vital partner of the Council. We provide detailed and, hopefully, actionable information on a wide range of issues on the Council's agenda. We translate the mandates of the Security Council into peacekeeping operations, special political missions, sanctions-monitoring groups and bodies such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism in Syria.

The report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (S/2015/446) and the subsequent report of the Secretary-General (S/2015/682) provide recommendations on how such operations could be developed and improved. I want in particular to underline the proposals related to prevention and post-conflict measures, not least in the area of peacebuilding and development. Let us also recall that "peaceful societies" is a goal for the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since the Secretariat facilitates the day-to-day deliberations of the Council, we must have a strong grasp of its working methods and working practice. While the Council, of course, decides on its own procedures, the Secretariat stands ready to provide institutional memory and advice to the rotating Council presidencies and to its other members.

An important interface between the Council and the Secretariat remains the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. The Working Group has given more transparency to

the Council's work through its crafting of notes, which are subsequently issued by the President, documenting trends of relevance to the wider United Nations membership, including troop- and police-contributing countries.

Let me mention some decisions of the Council on its working methods and the actions that the Secretariat has taken to implement them.

The Council has indicated that members of the Council and the Secretariat can continue to use the "any other business" agenda item to raise issues of concern. The Secretariat considers that to be a valuable practice. We have brought important matters to the Council's attention more than 20 times in the past two years.

In addition, the Department of Political Affairs has instituted a monthly practice of briefing Council members on situations that could become threats to international peace and security. Early-warning signals could, and in my view should, play an even more important role in preventing situations from deteriorating or spiralling out of control, as we have so often seen in recent years.

The Secretariat has also actively supported proposals to arrange briefings via secure video-teleconferences from United Nations offices around the world. The number of such video-teleconferences increased from one in 2009 to 41 in 2013, and to 101 in 2014. I have been part of that trend myself, and I think that it is a great innovation.

Furthermore, in response to calls from Council members and the wider membership, the Council website now offers a historical record of Council activities and information, for instance on reporting requirements and mandate renewals. The website also presents vital information on sanctioned individuals and entities in formats that are deemed useful to and by Member States.

The Council has also encouraged the early appointment of Chairs of its subsidiary bodies. It is important that the new Chairs be able to hit the ground running, with solid knowledge of the work of their Committees or Working Groups. Here, the Secretariat assists the outgoing Chairs in preparing documentation for the incoming Chairs. Following the election of five new Security Council members last week, that process will soon start again.

I should add that the Secretariat provides support to 16 sanctions Committees and 71 experts serving on 12 sanctions-monitoring panels. Identifying experts continues to be a time-consuming process. In response to calls from Member States to ensure geographical and other diversity, we have gradually expanded our roster of experts. In addition, the Secretariat is improving cooperation on sanctions through the Inter-agency Working Group on United Nations Sanctions, which brings together 24 United Nations entities.

As the Council, in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter, intensifies its cooperation with regional organizations, the Secretariat is working in parallel to support the Council in those endeavours, not least vis-à-vis the African Union.

In closing, there is always room for improving any organization's working methods. The Secretariat looks forward to hearing the views of the other principal organs, Council members and the wider United Nations membership. We appreciate the transparency demonstrated by today's initiative. The work of the Security Council affects all Member States and people everywhere in a world where peace, development, and human rights are increasingly interrelated.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Deputy Secretary-General for his briefing.

I now call on the President of the General Assembly.

Mr. Lykketoft: It is an honour for me, as President of the General Assembly, to brief the Security Council during this annual debate on working methods. I do so in full appreciation of the privilege that this opportunity affords me as only the seventh Assembly President, I understand, to address the Council; the last time that took place was eight years ago. I thank the Spanish presidency and Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi and each of the Council members for this opportunity.

We meet today as our Organization celebrates its seventieth anniversary. Indeed, on Friday we will mark the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations. We also meet today, three weeks after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) by world leaders, which is focused on addressing poverty and inequalities, combating climate change and environmental degradation, and strengthening institutions of justice and peace, and which responds to the ever-clearer

interlinkages between the Organization's three pillars of development, peace and security, and human rights, as expressed in the Charter.

In that context, the annual debate on the working methods of the Security Council is extremely timely. Guided by the principles of transparency, inclusivity, accountability and efficiency, such a discussion is of great interest to the larger United Nations membership. It can also be to the benefit of the institutional relationship and interaction between the Security Council and the General Assembly, particularly this year as together we bring forward the process to select and appoint the next Secretary-General.

The relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council is, or at least can be, both mutually reinforcing and complementary. The full United Nations membership, through the Charter of the United Nations, has conferred on the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and agreed that the Council acts on their behalf in carrying out its duties.

In addition, there are a number of areas where the actions of both the Council and the Assembly are closely linked, and indeed interdependent. That includes certain peace and security issues, the review of the Charter of the United Nations, the appointment of the Secretary-General, the election of judges to international tribunals, certain recommendations from the Assembly to the Council, the Security Council's annual and special reports, as well as the relations between the Security Council and certain subsidiary organs established by the Assembly. Only last week, we saw an example of this when the General Assembly elected the five new non-permanent members of the Security Council for the period 2016-2017.

During the rest of my term in office, I will continue to promote effective cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the principal organs of the United Nations and the Secretary-General. I especially intend to uphold the tradition of holding meetings with the monthly Presidents of the Security Council and of staying in close contact with them on issues of common interest and joint activity.

Given the Security Council's significant responsibilities and this mutually reinforcing relationship, it is not surprising that the working methods of the Council are of great interest and concern to the wider United Nations membership. That interest is even greater during years when the next Secretary-General is to be appointed. We must never lose sight of the fact that, at any given moment, 178 Members of the United Nations are not members of the Security Council, and that some 35 per cent of the membership has never even served as Council members.

For years, there have been widespread calls for increased transparency, inclusivity and a more rigorous process in selecting the next chief of the Organization. Through General Assembly resolution 69/321, on the revitalization of the General Assembly, the United Nations membership has unanimously provided clear guidance for the way forward. Specifically, they have requested that the General Assembly President and the President of the Security Council begin the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Secretary-General. I have already commenced the discussion on this matter with the current Security Council presidency. I will continue to interact with the presidency with a view to jointly circulating a letter to the whole membership inviting candidates to be presented in a timely manner and describing the entire process. It is also envisaged that the Presidents of the General Assembly and Security Council would jointly circulate to all Member States, on an ongoing basis, the names of individuals who have been submitted for consideration as candidates, together with accompanying documents, including curricula vitae. In addition, Member States have requested that the General Assembly, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, conduct informal dialogues or meetings with candidates, thus contributing to the transparency and inclusivity of the process.

General Assembly resolution 69/321 also underlines that whoever assumes the position of Secretary-General should be the best possible candidate — a person who embodies the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and demonstrates a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Such a person should also be a candidate with proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills.

I am absolutely confident that there are a number of potential female candidates who possess those credentials and more. Bearing in mind that in 70 years the United Nations has never had a female Secretary-General, the inclusion and consideration of women candidates should be an important focus for all of us as

we ensure that the Organization continues to advance gender equality on all levels.

Lastly, from the very start of this discussion, we have heard calls for the selection process to be finalized as early as possible, preferably three months prior to the assumption of office by the next Secretary-General. Speaking from my own experience in September, providing adequate time for preparation prior to assuming office in the Organization is fundamental to ensuring the effective discharge of responsibilities during the transition period.

Given the critical role that the Secretary-General plays in ensuring that the Organization is run as efficiently and as effectively as possible, and given that the outside world increasingly expects the highest possible standards from the Organization, the process of selecting the next person at the helm must be as open and as thorough as possible. I look forward to working with all Member States to that end.

There are three further relevant issues regarding the interaction between the Council and the General Assembly that I wish to touch on briefly.

First, the General Assembly receives and considers the annual and special reports of the Security Council, which, according to the Charter, shall include an account of the measures that the Security Council has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security. This exercise represents an important aspect of the transparency and accountability that the wider membership expects vis-à-vis the Security Council. While there have been improvements in the report in recent years, there have also been calls from Member States to further improve its analytical quality. This year, on 12 November, the General Assembly will consider the Security Council report that the Council adopted this morning, and I encourage all Member States to participate and share their views.

Secondly, with regard to the election of the ten non-permanent members of the Security Council, the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/307, on revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, decided that the elections of the non-permanent members of the Council should be conducted six months before the elected members assume their responsibilities. During this seventieth session, the Assembly will therefore hold two elections of non-permanent members – one of which, as mentioned earlier, was held just last week, and the second is scheduled for June next year. This is a welcome development that will allow newly elected members to better prepare for their two-year term in this Council.

Finally, it would be remiss of me to conclude without addressing the issue of Security Council reform — arguably one of the most discussed and sensitive issues within the United Nations and beyond over many decades. As was underlined by a large number of world leaders during this session's general debate, this topic is of central importance to a large majority of the membership. The General Assembly has decided to immediately continue the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in the seventieth session, and I intend to move this process forward, as much as possible, in the coming period.

One of my first decisions as President of the General Assembly was to set the theme of the seventieth session. I chose to focus on the idea that this historic, and perhaps defining, session for the future of the United Nations could capture a new commitment to action on the part of the 193 Member States. The Council's invitation to me to brief the Council today is an example of such action and, I hope, the beginning of a year of excellent cooperation between the General Assembly and the Security Council. Let me therefore thank the Council once again for this opportunity. I look forward to hearing Member States' statements and input to this very timely debate.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Mr. Jürgenson.

Mr. Jürgenson: It is a great pleasure for me to address the Security Council in my capacity as Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council at this open debate devoted to the working methods of the Security Council. I wish to thank the Spanish presidency of the Council for convening this debate and for inviting us. Ambassador Oh Joon, the President of the Economic and Social Council, is unable to attend because of prior commitments abroad and sends his regrets.

This meeting is a welcome step in improving cooperation among United Nations Charter bodies. The relations between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are enshrined in the Charter of the Organization. Article 65 states that the Economic and Social Council may furnish information to the Security Council and shall assist it upon its request. The legal basis for cooperation could not be

clearer. Yet the use of this provision has been very limited. Its most constructive incarnation is probably the establishment by the Economic and Social Council of its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, following an invitation made by the Security Council in its resolution 1212 (1998) to contribute to the elaboration of a long-term programme of support for Haiti. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group continues to exist and contributes to the promotion of coherent and sustained development support to Haiti.

Following the promising example of the Haiti Group, and responding to a request from the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council established Ad hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi, which were active from 2003 to 2006. These Groups, which promoted a comprehensive approach to peace and development in post-conflict settings, prefigured the country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission, for which they constituted an avant garde.

Interestingly, the creation of these Groups led to enhanced interaction between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, particularly the latter's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. In recent years, the Economic and Social Council has followed the development of the situation in South Sudan since that country joined the community of nations and has maintained interaction with the Peacebuilding Commission under its agenda item "African countries emerging from conflict". However, interaction with the Security Council has diminished considerably.

The time has come to revitalize the relationship among the Charter bodies of this Organization. The changing nature of conflict — from inter-State wars to complex civil conflicts that are intractable and reoccurring — highlights the fundamental link between sustainable development and lasting peace. As the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (see S/2015/446) rightfully stressed, the promotion of inclusive economic and social development and the broadening of community engagement are key to prevent relapse into conflict, and innovative approaches are needed to integrate conflict prevention, governance, development and human rights.

The changing context of global cooperation for development through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) further enhances this opportune moment for a revitalization of the relationship. The Agenda seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom and recognizes the major challenge to the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

The Agenda also promotes a culture of peace and non-violence. In particular, Sustainable Development Goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, lays the ground for common work. Sustainable Development Goal 16 highlights the need to address violence, abuse and exploitation, as well as to strengthen national institutions against crime and corruption, making them more transparent, accountable and effective. The connection between peace, stability and development could not have been more clearly stated.

The definition of follow-up and review mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda offers an opportunity to engage in a joint reflection on how the Charter bodies of the United Nations, as well as the Peacebuilding Commission, work together to translate the Agenda into tangible and coherent policy measures by the United Nations system and the international community at large.

The Economic and Social Council can interact with the Security Council on a regular basis on issues of common concern. There are many of these issues: the promotion of institution-building and improved governance, the need for social inclusion as a key component for sustained peace, the role of women and youth in that context, the consequences of economic and financial crises for global stability and the impact of environmental degradation on weakened societies.

On each dimension of sustainable development, namely, economic, social and environmental, and on their contribution to the overall objective of peace, the United Nations development system, under the oversight of United Nations Economic and Social Council, has a lot to contribute. The Economic and Social Council can act as a counterpart of the Security Council so as to embrace a truly holistic approach to peace and security, an approach that world leaders have recognized as the only one that can lead to sustainable results. The Economic and Social Council stands ready to work together with the Security Council on the modalities for such interaction, be it through more systematic interaction on issues of common interest or through the establishment of an ad hoc working group.

The debate today should pave the way for renewed coherence among United Nations bodies and for

mobilization around the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to which the Security Council also has a lot to contribute. I trust that our willingness to work together and make the best use of our respective bodies will be stronger than the political and institutional cleavages between us. Together, the entire United Nations system, including its principal bodies, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, can provide strong, integrated policy support and guidance, within their respective mandates and competencies, to the cause of peace and development.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): At the outset, I would like to commend and thank you, Mr. President, and the Spanish presidency of the Council for convening this very timely debate this morning. I also welcome the very valuable contributions by our three briefers, notably the Deputy Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council.

I am speaking today on behalf of Angola, Chile, Jordan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Spain — six countries from six different regions of the world. We are six Security Council members that are committed to collaboration and to working together on the set of issues before us today, including my own country as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions of the Security Council. We share a common wish to make the working methods of the Council and the Council's interactions with other organs of the United Nations, as stated this morning, more effective, so as to better reflect contemporary realities.

This annual open debate is about much more than just the working methods of the Security Council. It is about the decision-making culture and the effectiveness of the Council. It also goes to the heart of the Council's performance and accountability to the whole United Nations membership and the Charter of the United Nations. The current crises facing the United Nations and the Council's difficulty in responding effectively to those crises suggest the need for a new approach.

Meaningful changes are driven by practice, by taking the initiative and leading by example as much as by rules and procedure. While there are good ideas on working methods contained in the President's concept note (S/2015/793, annex) agreed to by the Council, the dilemma is that they are couched in vague language, are often not implemented, and some Council members even resist implementing them. That reflects the disconnect between the Council's working methods, this debate and the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. The Council will find solutions and improve its performance by adapting its working methods in innovative ways to meet the needs of specific cases, not as a result of the generic work done in the Informal Working Group, although the latter should base its future work on the common points of action from the outcomes of this open debate.

The Council must throw off some of the constrictions that have cramped even the way it discusses matters, let alone how it makes decisions. While consensus on procedures is a fine goal, it should not be elevated to the point where we have a 15-member veto, not just in the Council itself, but also in its subsidiary bodies, including its sanctions committees. That was never the intention of the Charter. All Council members have a responsibility to find solutions to improve our processes and culture and to work at all levels of our diplomacy. For that reason, we have fostered increased dialogue among the Permanent Representatives on the Council's working methods, including a monthly meeting to discuss how we work together on the issues before us.

We also need working methods that produce effective political focus in the Council's work. The Council's members have to display more discipline and restraint in the range of initiatives considered or taken, many of which absorb valuable time and distract us from real problem-solving and diplomacy and have limited world impact. We also have some distance to go in terms of focus and interactivity in order to ensure that open debates are a useful forum for exchanging views between the Council and the rest of the Organization. They need to be more than a platform for States to record national positions.

The veto may not be, strictly speaking,a working method, but it has a significant negative impact — a cascade effect — on the working methods of the Council, where elected members are routinely excluded for no reason other than habit. There needs to be a more inclusive process for developing resolutions and presidential statements. All Council members need the opportunity to engage and contribute meaningfully. It is a simple request, but in the current Council practice it is the exception, not the norm.

Arguably, the very recent introduction of the penholdership system has improved Council efficiency. It ensures that the first drafts of most Council products are prepared by delegations with consistent knowledge and a long background in the issues. But it has also diminished the opportunity for wider Council engagement, especially by the elected members, and has significantly increased the risk of Council products being crafted in a way that serves only the interests of the permanent members. In those respects, the system cuts across the principle of collective responsibility that underpins the Charter. We should all feel a sense of ownership over the Council's work, and we should not preclude others from offering their drafting ideas for texts. Wherever possible, we want to encourage changes to the penholdership system. That is an obvious way both to ensure necessary continuity, by including permanent and elected members, and to leverage their relevant expertise, whether that be regional or through their chairmanship of subsidiary bodies or some other source.

As today's three briefers made clear, the Council needs to become better at cooperating with other United Nations and regional organs, bodies and offices. One simple way to promote better interaction would be for Council members to respect the role of the presidency in organizing the Council's regular business for the month. That should include arranging for interactions with the Secretariat, the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and also with other bodies such as the Peacebuilding Commission whose advisory and early warning capacity are of direct importance to the Council's work. We also need to get more serious about the supporting partnerships and the complementary roles of the United Nations, regional organizations and counterparts, especially the African Union, in preventing and managing conflicts. In that effort, it is also important to improve consultations and coordination with troop- and police-contributing countries, especially in relation to the development and renewal of mandates. The knowledge and challenges that they acquire in the field is an asset that the Council must consider when discussing its mandates.

The process for the Secretary-General's appointment, which includes the Council's close cooperation with the General Assembly, will be a key issue for all Members of the Organization over the next year. It is not acceptable that the Council has been slow to take up the necessary engagement between the Presidents of the General Assembly and Security Council on a matter of such direct importance to all Member States. That is especially relevant given the unequivocal call from the General Assembly, which we have all supported, for dialogue and a more transparent and inclusive process in the decision-making on this specific issue.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this annual debate on the working methods of the Security Council. I would also like to thank Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson, President of the General Assembly Likketoft and Mr. Jürgenson for their comments and for setting the tone for our discussion. I would like to speak briefly about some recent working method improvements and the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission, before concluding with a few words about selecting the next Secretary-General.

At a time when the Security Council is grappling with such disparate and complex threats to international peace and security, the Council has an obligation to consider how to adapt and improve its functions. We believe that the Council should continue to explore how its working methods can be improved and welcome suggestions on how best to do that. Council presidencies have some discretion on innovating, and the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, which Ambassador Gaspar Martins of Angola so ably leads, is another place where we try to improve the way the Council does business. The Informal Working Group has made a lot of progress over the past few years by adopting a series of notes to improve the Council's working methods, from clarifying the role of penholders to revamping the handover process from one subsidiary organ chair to the next. Very relevant to today is the fact that the Informal Working Group has done its part to promote dialogue with non-Council members and United Nations bodies, including through note S/2013/515 on the subject. That leads me to a part of that note I want to highlight, which is the Council's commitment to the Arria Formula and other formats.

My delegation is a big supporter of Arria-format meetings. At their best, such meetings provide an important venue for us to hear views beyond those of Member States, a way to inform ourselves informally about the difficult issues on our agenda. After Wednesday's Arria-format meeting on supporting victims of terrorism, chaired by Spain and the United

States, the Council will have held 13 Arria-Formula meetings thus far in 2015, where it has inviteda wide range of civil society to participate in our work. Those meetings have provided opportunities to hear directly from individuals experiencing unimaginably difficult circumstances, and many have been extremely powerful in reminding us of the human toll that accompanies conflicts. For instance, in the last year we have heard from civil society leaders and activists from Syria and Crimea and from threatened lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individuals, to name just a few. We have held five Arria-Formula meetings with the Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on Syria.

We also want to highlight the importance of peacebuilding. A bit later in this meeting, Ambassador Skoog will discuss the topic in more detail. The Security Council has continued to welcome the Chairs of the various country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission to participate in Council meetings. In its advisory function to the Security Council and other United Nations entities, the Peacebuilding Commission provides valuable information from diverse stakeholders on the ground in post-conflict States. We deeply value its role on the ground in building institutions to give countries a genuine chance to stabilize and develop. We look forward to participating in the 2015 peacekeeping architecture review process and hope that it will outline how the Council and the Peacebuilding Council can best work together, playing differentiated but complementary roles in engaging with countries recovering from and vulnerable to conflict.

Finally, as co-equal principal organs of the United Nations, the General Assembly and the Security Council each has its own defined role in the selection of the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations. The United States is in favour of the membership's gaining an understanding of the views of potential nominees for Secretary-General and supports a selection process for Secretary-General that is guided by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, building on best practices and the participation of all Member States, as outlined in General Assembly resolution 69/321. As we agreed in that resolution, the United States looks forward to a process that leads to the appointment of the best possible candidate for the position of Secretary-General — one who embodies the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and who demonstrates a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the Organization. With the innovations of the General Assembly revitalization resolution in hand, we believe that the course has ben set for the selection process of the next Secretary-General. We look forward to continuing engagement during this important moment in the Organization's history.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Spanish presidency for having organized this debate on the Security Council's working methods, including the question of the appointment procedure for the future Secretary-General. I also thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Eliasson; the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Lykketoft; and the Vice-President of Economic and Social Council, Mr. Jürgenson, for their statements.

Successive Chairs of the Security Council Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions have spared no effort to improve the Council's working methods, promote greater transparency in the Council's activities and strengthen its interaction with States that are not members of the Council. When looking at the statistics of annual public meetings, resolutions adopted unanimously, presidential statements and press releases, we note that there has been undeniable progress. For example, of 263 formal meetings held in 2014, 241 were public and 15 were with the troop- and police-contributing countries. Of 63 resolutions adopted that year, 60 were unanimous. However, the increased frequency of public meetings, which often do not lead to the adoption of a concrete decision, should not obscure the absolute necessity of further qualitative reform.

The Council's inability over several decades to find a solution to the Palestinian issue and the absence of any progress for nearly five years in resolving the Syrian crisis clearly demonstrates that this organ is not efficiently and responsibly fulfilling its mandate as it addresses the challenges of the twenty-first century. The effectiveness of the Security Council must be assessed in the light of these results in terms of both prevention and conflict resolution.

In this regard, Chad supports the proposal made by France that the five permanent members adopt a code of conduct to collectively refuse to exercise the veto when the Council considers situations involving war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. However, we remain sceptical about the effectiveness

of this too early restriction of the use of veto, given that the holder of the right has the freedom to use it even in those exceptional conditions if it considers that its vital interests are threatened. Therefore, it is important that the contours of this proposal be clarified. However, in our humble opinion, the best way to limit the misuse of the veto is through Charter reform.

Beyond this particular context, the principle of the veto itself, granted to a membership category, deserves special examination in view of the reform of the Security Council. Africa, victim of historical injustice, home to almost a billion people, is now the only continent in the world that has neither a permanent representative nor the veto power, nor, worse still, the possibility of being heard. The legitimacy and credibility of the Security Council and the effectiveness of its action will depend in the future on the participation of all its members and on equal footing. Chad reaffirms its commitment to the African Common Position on this issue.

The elected members of the Council are doing remarkable work in the subsidiary bodies and working groups that they chair and whose work they direct. Given the important role of these bodies, we are calling for a more open and inclusive process in the designation of their Chairs. It seems unfair that a facilitator appointed by the permanent members choose them as he or she wishes. Also, we think that increasing transparency and improved interaction with other States is a function of the latter's access to the subsidiary bodies and their work.

Similarly, the role of penholder, reserved for a category of member in charge of drafting the draft resolutions and declarations, seems like an anachronism and a form of guardianship that should be banished. We believe it is high time that the African members of the Council be allowed to fulfil this penholder function on issues concerning Africa. That should also be the case for other regions. Moreover, it would also be wise to encourage participation of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Chairs of its country configurations in the plenary meetings of the Security Council, given their valuable contributions in the post-conflict stabilization process.

In the same context, we underline the importance of a greater involvement of regional organizations like the African Union and its subregional mechanisms in maintaining international peace and security in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Similarly, the Council should further promote preventive diplomacy to avoid the constant need to turn to Chapter VII of the Charter.

At the centre of today's debate, inter alia, is the cooperation between the Security Council and other United Nations bodies, in particular the General Assembly, in relation to the selection of the future Secretary-General. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of resolution 69/321 of 11 September 2015, which constitutes a major step forward. Chad strongly supports the principle of electing the future Secretary-General by the General Assembly from a list of several candidates for a single term of office. We hope that the Security Council and the General Assembly will show great mutual understanding on this issue. It is high time that, 70 years after the creation of the United Nations, the procedure for appointing the Secretary-General take into account the new reality of the world and meet the expectations of the 7 billion people on the planet.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): If I may say so, we seem to be having a small problem with certain working methods of the Council because when speakers take the floor in a language other than English the English interpretation is so loud that we can hear it in the Chamber. It therefore becomes very difficult to appreciate the beautiful French of, for example, the Permanent Representative of Chad. The experts tell me that someone must have an iPhone or iPad at maximum volume, making it audible to the entire Chamber. Therefore, while we attempt to fix this little problem of the Council's working methods, I would ask all members to check their electronic and computer devices.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I hope I can solve that problem by speaking in English. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this debate and for all the initiatives the presidency has taken so far, and I also thank the briefers.

As I said during the wrap-up debate in June (see S/PV.7479), I am frequently struck by how formal our working methods can be. Even in our allegedly informal meetings there are too many prepared speeches and too few genuine discussions. So in the spirit of bringing more interactivity to this meeting, today I am just going to pose questions, three sets of them in my three minutes. I hope other speakers will feel free to respond in their own statements or in person afterwards, or, indeed, by replying to me on Twitter, where I am @matthewrycroft1.

For my first set of questions, I would like to ask for thoughts on improving the day-to-day interactions of the Council. How can we bring more transparency? How can we improve participation? And for efficiency, what more can we do to stick to schedules and keep our statements to the agreed-on length? Doing so could lead to more time for horizon-scanning or for hearing from people on the ground, including through Arria Formula meetings. If we are given ideas, we will pursue them next month during our presidency. The Council has been warned.

For my second set of questions, I would like to ask what the point is of good working methods if the will to use them effectively is not there. What is the point when one member can bring the very best working methods to a standstill by raising an arm in veto? I am proud that the United Kingdom has signed up to the code of conduct of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group. We will never vote against credible Council action to stop mass atrocities and crimes against humanity. If other members, permanent or not, join us, we will send a powerful message that the Council can really deliver when it matters most. The same could be said about the appointment of the next Secretary-General. I welcomed the statement made by the President of the General Assembly this morning. Would it not send a very welcome message if the United Nations appointed its most powerful advocate in a fair, transparent and structured way? Appointing a woman to the role would be more powerful still. So what should we do next to maximize the number of credible female candidates?

Thirdly, what more can we do to ensure that the Council's work is not just about ending conflicts but also about avoiding future ones? With Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, we have made a good step forward, but we can do more. That is the United Kingdom is planning to convene the first ever meeting of development ministers next month in the Security Council to discuss the issue. What more can we do to connect the various parts of the United Nations and link the development agenda to our work in the Council on peace and security?

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to remind the Council that the representative of Angola delivered a statement that was also intended to be on behalf of Chile, Jordan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Spain. It is therefore understood that those Council members will not take the floor.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this debate, and the briefers for their useful insights.

Improving the Security Council's working methods is an issue of great interest to all Member States. After all, while only 15 Council members prescribe and set legally binding norms, all 193 United Nations Members have to implement their decisions. Greater accountability, transparency and openness in the Council's work are therefore paramount. Briefings by the presidency at the beginning and end of the month and by the Chairs of subsidiary bodies have become routine, and more Council meetings are being held in an open format.

We welcome the fact that more Sanctions Committees are now briefing the Council in public. In our view, such practice should become standard, because it enables us to have a better understanding of what those bodies do, and that is key to better implementation, whether of sanctions regimes or counter-terrorism measures. Particularly where the Counter-Terrorism Committee is concerned, we believe it is essential for it to engage with the membership of the United Nations in order to raise awareness and provide a platform for sharing good practices and insights on how best to tackle the threat of terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters. To that end, my delegation has sought to increase the number of the Counter-Terrorism Committee's open briefings and special events, and through them tackle some issues that may not be on the Committee's regular agenda. There is nothing regular about the threat and spread of terrorism these days, and the United Nations counter-terrorism machinery must adjust to that new reality.

Late last year, the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) took a useful step in bringing the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force together for an informal briefing. Such meetings should not be one-offs, especially since the gap between assessment and assistance, and for that matter, between bodies with mandates from the Security Council and from the General Assembly, remains. It is vital that we overcome the silo mentality and make sure that we respond jointly and promptly to countries' concerns and needs for assistance. There is still a lot of work to be done to that effect.

Regarding the Sanctions Committees, we have sought to engage actively with the countries concerned

and their neighbours and with relevant regional actors, both formally and informally. We did so with the aim of improving understanding of the situation at hand and of how the decisions we take affect developments on the ground, including the concerns that countries may have about the impact of sanctions and their related capacity-building needs. We believe these are good practices that should be continued. Visits by the Chairs of subsidiary bodies to the countries concerned should be further encouraged. And, of course, as the Deputy Secretary-General mentioned, the handover from Chair to Chair should be better managed and streamlined. We should strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to provide adequate assistance to the Sanctions Committees in their work. In that regard, we should keep in the mind the work done last year by one Council member, and we hope we can move it forward, with the best interests of the countries concerned at its heart.

Where appropriate, we should also consider closer cooperation among the Council's subsidiary bodies. We have had a positive experience, both on their substance and for practical reasons, with joint meetings between the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), as well as between the Yemen Sanctions Committee and the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. They save time for both experts and briefers and can help us deal better with the ever-growing demand for meeting spaces and interpretation services.

We welcome the steps that the DPA has taken to establish consolidated sanctions lists and provide more systematic information on the United Nations website and social media. Press statements and other forms of media engagement by relevant subsidiary bodies or their Chairs — although that practice is not common — offer additional avenues for outreach and disseminating relevant information and should be further explored.

Speaking of websites, we call on Council members to take a fresh look at the possibilities of adjusting the structure of the Security Council's annual report in line with the realities of the information age. My delegation has submitted a number of proposals in that regard, as the representative of New Zealand has mentioned, to the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, and we are open to engaging further on the matter with all Council members.

As the Council endeavours to tackle an unprecedented number of crises simultaneously, better use of the agenda item on "any other business" during consultations would be welcome. One useful option that can strengthen the Council's preventive approach is the ability to be flexible through the use of "any other business" and informal briefings, aimed at flagging potential crises, by the Secretary-General, the DPA or, for that matter, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, since human-rights violations are usually harbingers of more serious trouble to come. With regard to the Council's increasingly heavy workload, we believe there is some scope for improvement by reviewing existing mandate cycles to make things a little easier, especially in cases where situations remains static for long periods of time and may not warrant the existing frequency of deliberations, as, for example, in the case of quarterly meetings on Kosovo.

In our view, Council members must put the "interactive" back in interactive debates. We should take advantage of the rare meetings with Force Commanders, police commanders, regional organizations and other relevant actors to engage in genuine exchanges, not limited to the reading of prepared statements. Similarly, there is room for improving the Council's dialogue with the Peacebuilding Commission. While the Chairs of peacebuilding country configurations do brief the Council occasionally, their experience and insights could be used more extensively, and in consultations as well.

Open debates remain a highly important tool for the work of the Council. However, more thought should be given to structuring them better. It is frankly painful to see ministers from countries that are not Council members addressing the Council with only junior experts there to listen to them — or to think of our own colleagues speaking at 8.30 p.m. on issues of critical importance. Such questions remain open, although a number of useful documents have already been adopted. Previous Council documents contain useful indications which should be revisited and taken up again.

During the general debate of the General Assembly last month, several events dedicated to the issue of veto restraint drew large numbers of participants. It is simply unacceptable that veto powers should be used to protect the perpetrators, as has been the case with Syria or the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17, and not the victims. Lithuania fully supports relevant initiatives, including the call for adopting a code of

conduct to that effect. Failure to bring the perpetrators to account encourages impunity. Repeated failure to do so calls the Council's credibility into question. We believe that the Council should make better use of the tools available to pursue justice, including cooperation with the International Criminal Court, with respect to both new referrals and the follow-up on existing referrals.

Finally, let me touch upon the election of the next Secretary-General. As the United Nations claims its rightful place in the twenty-first century, so should the selection of the chief officer of the United Nations meet twenty-first century standards. He or she will take up one of the most challenging jobs on Earth. For the first time, as the President of the General Assembly reminded us today, General Assembly resolution 69/321, on the revitalization of the Assembly's work, envisages a joint activity on the subject.

While we are realistic about expecting change to be of limited scope in the short term, we remain convinced that greater transparency, inclusiveness, interactivity and diversity of candidates, including in terms of gender, are definitely in order in the process of selecting and appointing the individual who will lead the United Nations at a time of unprecedented challenges and tasks ahead.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China thanks Spain for its initiative in holding today's open debate. We have listened carefully to the statements of Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson, the President of the General Assembly Mr. Lykketoft and Ambassador Jürgenson, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council.

Thanks to the joint efforts of its members in recent years, the Security Council has made good progress in improving its working methods. With more emphasis on greater transparency, the Security Council has markedly increased the number of open meetings convened and paid more attention to briefing non-Council members on its work. The work of the Council has become more more efficient and targeted, thanks to an improvement in its working procedures. The Council has also used various modalities to strengthen communication and exchanges with relevant Member States, regional organizations, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, among others.

The holding of today's open debate on working methods fully reflects the positive attitude and willingness of the Council to draw on the opinions of wider membership to further improve its work. While China supports the Council's continuing efforts to improve its working methods, it would also like to emphasize the following several points.

First, in accordance with its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council should focus its energy and resources on addressing the most urgent issues that threaten international peace and security. With regard to thematic issues, it should act strictly within its mandate and enhance communication with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and others. With such coordination and division of labour, it should be possible to avoid the duplication or overlap of functions by the different organs.

Secondly, the Security Council should attach more importance to preventive diplomacy and mediation. It should promote the culture of peace and increase the use of such peaceful means as mediation and good offices for dispute resolution. It should push for the diplomatic settlement of disputes and handling of crises and, wherever possible, should avoid simply resorting to the threat or use of such methods as sanctions. The Council should act in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations to enhance cooperation with regional organizations.

Thirdly, the Security Council should engage in more adequate consultations to reach a broad consensus. Before any action is taken, every effort should be made to reach consensus through patient consultations and negotiations among Council members. Efforts should be made to avoid forcing a text through if it is still the object of major differences, so as to preserve the credibility and authoritativeness of the resolution.

Fourthly, the Council should give more weight to the opinions of the countries concerned and enhance dialogue and interaction with non-Council members. Listening to the opinions of the countries concerned will help the Council to make more rational decisions. Such mechanisms as the meeting with the troop-contribution countries and police-contributing countries, and the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations should be fully utilized. Communications with troop contributors and the Secretariat should be enhanced before deploying in peacekeeping missions or adjusting their mandates.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are grateful

to you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on such an important topic. We welcome the participation of the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft; the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Jan Eliasson; and Ambassador Jürgenson, who is representing the President of the Economic and Social Council.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela also supports the statement to be made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Faced with complex challenges in the area of international peace and security, which call for effective and timely responses by the Security Council to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, our country values the holding of this debate on its working methods. This exchange makes it possible to reaffirm the need to strengthen the Council's working relationship with the rest of the membership and the principal organs of this multilateral Organization, within the framework of their respective mandates. That process must involve the entire Organization and its subsidiary organs. A comprehensive reform of the Organization is necessary and cannot be put off.

While some decisions and working methods have been agreed and some documents approved with the aim of improving the working methods of the Security Council, including presidential note S/2010/507, we believe that they are still far from what is required to face up to the the existing challenges. Moreover, we need to find effective formulas to promote greater transparency and inclusivity, if we are to meet the expectations and reflect the collective interests of the Members of this Organization. We must also do something about the status of the rules of the Security Council, which have been in provisional form for 70 years. We need to adopt a definitive text to regulate the work of that body and put an end to the excessively discretional nature of its actions.

Despite those calls, there are still some major obstacles, such as lack of transparency, that adversely affect the working dynamics of the Security Council, and ultimately undermine the results of their execution. At times, the process of negotiating a draft resolution has lacked the necessary inclusivity, the discussions having been confined to a group of actors without taking into account the opinions of the non-permanent members of the Security Council. Since the unity of the Council is an important element for maintaining international peace and security, achieving that objective requires the full participation of all the Council members. In that regard, we stress the need to put an end to those types of exclusionary practices that undermine transparency and inclusivity.

We must focus attention on the sanctions Committees. The primary purpose of those subsidiary bodies of the Council, given the exceptional situations in which they are established, should be to assist in the political resolution of disputes. Ten of the 16 sanctions Committees now in existence affect African countries. The sanctions Committees should operate alongside an ongoing political process. In other words, their objectives should be clearly circumscribed and they should have a clear end date.

However, that is not what happens under the current practice of the Council. Once established, sanctions Committees, for whatever reason, will exist for decades if some of the permanent members so desire. The remaining members, the elected members, can do little to prevent it. Although they may chair the Committees, they have little, if any, power to change things. The non-permanent members of the Council can do little to change such imbalances, given the opposing factions that impede the possibility of carrying out needed improvements.

Sanctions should not be used as a political tool against countries and peoples. They should not be seen as an end unto themselves, but rather as an instrument bound to the solution of a given conflict. The sanctions committees must not be seen as merely punitive.

Another issue that we must review is the power wielded by penholders, the few permanent members that decide what, how and when mandates are created and considered, sometimes with little regard for the opinions of other members. The Council's practice is based on a consensus reached through negotiations; that is why we believe that a thorough democratization of the Council's working methods is urgently needed, especially regarding sanctions.

Bearing in mind that international peace and security affect all Members of the Organization, according to the principle of the sovereign equality of States, it is important for the Security Council to convene open or public meetings more frequently, in order that countries, particularly those whose cases are under consideration, may contribute to discussing

the issue with a view to reaching a peaceful resolution of the conflict. That is even more important in cases involving regional organizations. It is therefore paradoxical, given that the African Union is a strategic partner of the United Nations, that its representative, former President Joaquim Chissano, was unable to participate in the briefing on Western Sahara held in April (S/PV.7435). We hope that Mr. Chissano will be able to participate in the next meeting on that issue and that such a situation will not be repeated.

Moreover, Venezuela believes that troop-contributing countries should, in accordance with Article 44 of the Charter of the United Nations, participate in the decisions of the Council on the employment of their contingents in peacekeeping operations. In that vein, we support the calls of those countries for a genuine implementation of the provisions of Article 44, which would result in better functioning of the Security Council and its instruments for promoting peace.

The relationship among the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council must be based on respect for their respective competencies. That is why the Council should deal strictly with issues relating to threats to international peace and security, in accordance with Article 39 of the Charter of the United Nations. We are concerned about the tendency of this organ to address issues outside its jurisdiction, issues that are properly handled by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, which can consider them from a security perspective as well. Such was the case of resolution 2240 (2015) on migrants, adopted recently by the Council, with Venezuela abstaining. Our country sees the interaction between the Security Council and the other main bodies in terms of balance and respect for their respective functions under the Charter.

In the context of a close and harmonious relationship between the Council and the General Assembly, we would like to highlight the important role that the latter should play in the election of the next Secretary-General. Consultations on that topic should be guided by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness and should start as quickly as possible, by sending a joint communication by the Presidents of both bodies, including a description of the process as a whole and inviting candidates to be presented in a timely manner.

We are therefore convinced that the General Assembly should play a more active role in that matter so that it will not find itself simply endorsing the recommendation made by the Security Council. The General Assembly should be able to choose among several candidates, taking into account geographical balance. We also strongly support the nomination of female candidates to fill the position mentioned and the mainstreaming women's equality in the Organization.

Venezuela also believes that the review of the Council's decision-making mechanism, in particular the veto power, could have a positive influence on the interaction between the Council and the General Assembly in terms of its working methods, primarily the competency of the General Assembly's jurisdiction. In that regard, we wish to again highlight that the threat of using the veto has thwarted the legitimate aspiration of the Palestinian State to be admitted as a full Member of the United Nations, despite the overwhelming support on the part of Organization's membership.

To conclude, Venezuela calls for a body with a more balanced focus that will avoid applying double standards in the examination of the issues under its consideration. In that regard, as non-permanent members, we look forward to working together towards a Security Council that takes into account the views of all of its members, and the diverse geographic, political and cultural realities of the world.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): Nigeria is very grateful to Spain for organizing this debate on the working methods of the Security Council and for providing a concept note (S/2015/793, annex) to guide our deliberations. We also welcome the convening of the debate in an open format. It allows the Council to hear from the wider United Nations membership on matters of concern to all of us. Indeed, the large number of delegations that I see today participating in the debate is a clear indication of the interest of Member States in the working methods of the Security Council.

We want to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council for their briefings.

The topic of working methods, I believe, is the subject of a continuing discourse. We strongly believe that the change that we all seek will be achieved incrementally — not through a revolution. As the principal organ of the United Nations charged with the maintenance of international peace and security,

the Security Council plays a unique role in the global security architecture.

However, in carrying out that role, Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations makes it clear that the Council acts on behalf of the Members of the United Nations. That being the case, there is a need for the Council to conduct its affairs in a manner that is not only transparent, but accountable. We acknowledge the positive changes in the Council's practices in recent times. Much has been achieved in making the Council more open. However, we believe that a great deal more can be done and, indeed, should be done.

In recent years, the Council has embraced greater transparency and inclusiveness by making more frequent use of public meetings, such as this debate, where interested Member States are free to participate. We have also witnessed instances where Member States participating in the Council's open debates have been granted the right of reply to respond on issues of concern to them. We welcome that as a sign of the Council's readiness to accommodate the interests of other Member States.

The convening of meetings in open format in the Council Chamber is a remarkable way by which the Council has engaged with Member States. We believe that giving Member States the opportunity to hear the briefers speak and present their own perspectives on matters concerning them adds value to the work of the Council and underscores the effectiveness of rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Engagement with regional organizations is also significant in facilitating the work of the Council. In recent times, the Security Council has made vigorous efforts to deepen its engagement with regional organizations, within the framework of partnerships for the maintenance of international peace and security. In that context, we want to take special note of the Council's relationship with the African Union. I believe that is a valid point of departure. It has not been smooth sailing — the beginning was a bit stormy — but that is a partnership that we would like to see strengthened in the interest of peace and security on the African continent, as most of the items on the Council's agenda, as members know, are African issues.

On the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly, the adoption of Assembly resolution 69/321, on the revitalization of the work of the Assembly, especially the aspects pertaining to the appointment of the Secretary-General, is a significant step in lending greater transparency and inclusiveness to the selection and appointment process. It is our hope that the requisite political will is manifest in implementing the resolution in a manner that will yield concrete results.

On the Peacebuilding Commission, we recognize the critical role it plays in supporting the work of the Security Council. As a vital component of the United Nations peace and security architecture, the Peacebuilding Commission has worked assiduously to fulfil its mandate of post-conflict peacebuilding, preventing the recurrence of conflicts, improving coordination within and outside the United Nations for continued engagement in post-conflict countries and marshalling resources to support peace. Nigeria encourages periodic stocktaking briefings and interactive exchanges with the Commission. We believe that enhanced coordination and cooperation between the Council and the Commission is indeed essential to promoting peace in post-conflict situations. The Council can draw on the Commission's advice, in particular in the areas of revisiting mandates, establishing benchmarks and reviewing peace operations.

With regard to the Economic and Social Council, Article 65 of the Charter of the United Nations states that "it may furnish information to the Security Council and shall assist the Security Council upon its request." While we have seen significant engagement between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, interaction between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council has been almost negligible. It is significant to note that, of the three pillars of the United Nations — peace and security, development and human rights — two of them, namely, development and human rights, fall under the purview of the Economic and Social Council. We would therefore like to see closer interaction between both Councils, considering the importance of the mandate of the Economic and Social Council and how it has a bearing on peace and security. That is particularly crucial in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

As the international scene evolves and the dynamics of global peace and security change, the Security Council must become more receptive to the notion of closer engagement and coordination with various actors on the world stage, within and outside the United Nations system. They have an important role to play in the maintenance of international peace and security.

That cooperation, symmetry and symbiotic relationship must be established.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): First of all, allow me to commend you, Mr. President, on convening today's debate. We have seen a genuine revolution in the working methods of the Council, with Angola speaking on behalf of six members. Such initiatives should be supported — for example, it could be emulated by the new members joining the Council from the European Union.

The Security Council has been discussing in an open format the issue of improving its working methods for several years. We believe that external audits and periodic stocktaking of the working methods helps Council members to define areas where there is room for improvement. However, we think it is necessary once again to state clearly that the working methods themselves and decisions on their possible modification are the preserve of the Security Council. We firmly believe that the sole goal of reforming the Security Council's working methods should be to improve the Council's effectiveness and efficiency in carrying out tasks to maintain international peace and security, which is the primary responsibility of the Council in line with the Charter of the United Nations. Allowing ourselves to be swept away by populism will only harm our action.

We have heard criticism of the Council that at times it treads on the prerogatives of other United Nations bodies. We fully share those concerns. Our colleagues in the Council are well aware that we are cautious when it comes to the consideration of thematic subjects in the Security Council, in particular when it comes to those that rightly should fall within the remit of the General Assembly. Today we heard about plans to discuss in the Council the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — and specifically Goal 16. This is not a matter for the Security Council. This kind of discussion was planned months before the Agenda was officially launched, even before the specialized bodies — the General Assembly and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which is under the Economic and Social Council — have the possibility of beginning to work on a mechanism for conducting a review of the implementation of the Goals. We cannot support such initiatives in the Security Council, as they gravely undermine the Charter prerogatives of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. This issue must be treated extremely seriously.

We must also recognize that many Security Council meetings devoted to thematic subjects receive a great response from Member States. The number of speakers in open debates can exceed 100. On such days the General Assembly appears to move into the Council Chamber. Would it not be better to hold such debates in the General Assembly Hall, where all can speak on an equal footing?

There is another negative trend with regard to the revitalization of the General Assembly. Dragging the General Assembly agenda into the Security Council draws the Council and its members away from fulfilling their main task: focusing on country subjects and issues on which it can and must take urgent and tangible decisions. Perhaps due to a lack of time and the possibility of an in-depth, patient investment of effort into mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of each conflict situation, on the initiative of several countries, the Council is increasingly pushed into adopting rushed decisions and sanctions mechanisms based on invoking Chapter VII of the Charter. The effectiveness of such decisions leaves a lot to be desired. They often lead to merely worsening a crisis.

There has been a lot of commotion in recent months in connection with the selection of the next Secretary-General. Moreover, at times the discussion has not been on substantive or technical issues. The Secretary-General still has over a year left in his mandate. However, some delegations seem intent on launching the selection process right now. We do not think there is any practical value in that, other than point-scoring for those promoting the initiative. Furthermore, we should not be putting further pressure on the current Secretary-General, much less bringing into the United Nations the "lame duck" concept — as the saying goes in certain countries whose political systems are hardly paragons of effectiveness.

What we really should be focusing in the context of choosing the next Secretary-General is the need for further democratization of the work of the Secretariat. It cannot be considered normal when you have a situation whereby three key positions — the Under-Secretaries-General for peacekeeping, political and humanitarian affairs — are effectively usurped by three countries. We believe that, in order to maintain the effectiveness and legitimacy of the work of the Secretariat, we need to rotate those and certain other senior posts among all States Members of the United Nations. It is important

to make the process for their appointment more transparent.

We are satisfied overall with the relations between the Security Council and the Secretariat. The leadership of the Organization is always available to us and has an opportunity to approach the Council on any issue. We welcome the work of the Security Council Affairs Division. However, we would like to draw attention to another aspect of the work of the United Nations.

The Secretariat is a gracious host, offering its premises at Headquarters for events on a broad range of issues organized by Member States. However, we need to understand that, when holding such events, all Members of the Organization — bar none — must respect the rules of the house. In that regard, we think it is unacceptable that, at the event on combating violent extremism organized by the delegation of the United States on 29 September, notwithstanding protests by the leadership of the Secretariat and certain delegations, that delegation invited representatives of the self-declared "Kosovo", which is not a State Member of the United Nations. Kosovo Albanian representatives cannot be allowed to enter United Nations territory except when accompanied by Secretariat officials. Such action on the part of the United States is an abuse of its position as host country of the United Nations and demonstrates blatant disrespect for the Secretariat leadership. We call for an end to such high-handedness.

On the other hands, when there is a real need to hear the opinions of newly independent States that are not United Nations Members, the United States tends to erect visa barriers. Every year, Georgia introduces to the General Assembly a draft resolution on refugees that cannot be considered without inviting representatives of Abkhazia and South Ossetia to New York. Those representatives must be given the opportunity to have their say, even if only at special, informal events at Headquarters.

The same applies to the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the work of the United Nations. Situations arise in which countries that one would imagine to be the strongest proponents of the participation of civil society actually block appearances by representatives of NGOs that hold different views to their own. Those who would be seen to be objective should endorse the participation, for instance, of representatives of the overwhelming majority of the population of Crimea in the United Nations work.

Many delegations have noted the difference in the Security Council's approach to countries on its agenda. Unfortunately, that approach is selective. When drafting a Security Council position, some of our partners, for example, have objected to duly reflecting the opinions of African States hosting peacekeeping operations, such as the Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and others. At times even the opinion of the African Union is ignored. On the other hand, the positions of third countries on other issues, conveyed via members of the Council, acquire exaggerated significance and become an obstacle to the adoption of necessary decisions. We call on our colleagues in the Council to act consistently and in a principled manner on such issues and to be guided exclusively by the need to strengthen international peace and security.

We have consistently advocated improved coordination of the activities of the Security Council with the broadest possible circle of Member States, as well as with representatives who are competent to provide information that is important to the adoption of decisions. To that end, the Security Council is endowed with appropriate mechanisms, including unofficial meetings under the so-called Arria Formula. Unfortunately, however, in recent years there has been a growing trend to use such meetings to stage propaganda spectacles in which, for the reference of the Security Council, certain delegations seek to promote their own unilateral positions.

Moreover, the cost of using United Nations premises and conference services — including interpretation in some cases — is met through the regular budget. In other words, all we taxpayers would appear to be subsidizing the political activities of certain States. That is unacceptable, and we call on our colleagues to use the Arria Formula format exclusively for its original end of providing greater clarity to the Security Council with respect to situations on its agenda.

We are convinced that the Council would benefit from a democratization of its work, facilitated by a more balanced distribution of obligations informally linked to the so-called penholdership of some dossiers. Certain Council members should not consider countries or even regions to be their exclusive purview or act as mentors on issues concerning those countries. Such

conduct is a remnant of days gone by that we need to abandon.

In conclusion, with respect to the issue of the veto, which has been raised today, although we do not believe that it is relevant to the matter of working methods, the veto is one of the key provisions of the Charter that prompts Council members to reach consensus. I would simply say that it is clear why undermining the right of veto is the goal of those who would seek a mathematical majority on the Council, yet it is unclear why the veto is sometimes criticized by representatives of countries or regions that, in the absence of the veto, would find themselves under massive pressure from a particular group of States. I would suggest that they consider their own national interests.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Spanish presidency for having organized this debate. In the spirit of your concept note (S/2015/793, annex), Germany and France have decided to issue a joint intervention. I shall deliver the first part, and my German colleague the second. This unprecedented initiative reflects the depth of the Franco-German friendship and our shared willingness to change both expand the Security Council and to change its working methods. The excellent Spanish concept note stresses that the Security Council has demonstrated creative thinking with respect to evolving circumstances by establishing a practice and procedures that enjoy legitimate confidence and demonstrate efficiency in its work.

I thank the Deputy Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council for their introductory remarks. France and Germany strongly favour strengthening relations between the various United Nations bodies, in full respect for the powers set out in the Charter. Much has been said about the Economic and Social Council, but we feel it important to mention two important partners of the Security Council: the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Respect for human rights and harmonious development are inextricably linked to peace and security. Germany and France encourage more frequent briefings to the Council by the High Commissioner for Human Rights or his deputy, the Special Advisers of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect, as well as other human rights mechanisms. The protection issues are at the heart of the Council's activities and its mandated peacekeeping missions; this is the heart of a more preventive approach to crises. It is therefore natural that the Council should interact directly and frequently with those who are primarily responsible for these issues, as well as in post-conflict situations with the Peacebuilding Commission, as has already been noted.

There is no lasting peace without justice and the fight against impunity. France and Germany are in favour of more extensive contacts between the Council and the International Criminal Court, either through visits here by the Prosecutor or of the Council to The Hague, and of the improved sharing of information across peace missions in cases where the ICC is investigating, given that the Court's activities are in fact intrinsically linked with the justice provisions of the mandates of these operations. We can only regret that some Council resolutions are not implemented as they deserve. Consistency requires that the Council itself drew the consequences of the resolutions it has adopted with regard to ICC referrals.

The responsibility to protect depends on the Council's ability to avoid obstacles when it must act to prevent or stop mass atrocities situations. As Council members know, France and Mexico have proposed an initiative to regulate the use of the veto in the case of the most serious crimes, as defined by the Rome Statute. Our German friends, like 80 other States on all continents, have given us their support. This is a pragmatic initiative aimed at achieving a collective and voluntary commitment on the part of the permanent members. Aware of this challenge, and seeking the broadest possible effort, Germany and France have decided to support the code of conduct of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group, whose objectives are complementary to the French initiative.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to make only a brief comment in my national capacity, since Spain's position was clearly reflected in the statement made by the representative of Angola. At the end of this meeting, I shall, in my national capacity, deliver a brief summary of today's debate, to be circulated to all delegations.

Resuming my functions as President of the Security Council, I thank representatives for keeping their statements brief. The concept note before the Council

(S/2015/793, annex) up to ten minutes are alloted to joint statements by groups, three minutes to national statements, and only two minutes to national statements complementing joint statements. Some delegations have told me that two minutes is very little time, but if a delegation has already been represented in a statement delivered on behalf of a group, then two minutes should be sufficient. I believe that in that respect our working methods should evolve, because when the Organization was created it had 51 Member States, and now we are 193. We will have to organize ourselves in a different, more innovative way in order to become more effective.

I should like to ask that representatives speak at a normal speed so that the interpreters can properly translate their statements. I would also like to encourage delegations to continue to deliver summarized versions of their statements and circulate their full statements in writing or post them on their respective web pages.

I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I very much welcome the opportunity to participate in this open debate of the Council on behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). I would first like to say a few words on behalf of the Commission. I wanted initially to express appreciation for the recognition of the role of the Peacebuilding Commission that has been expressed by so many here around the table this morning.

I believe that today's debate is very timely in the light of the three reviews on the United Nations related to its peace and security agenda that have been presented to Member States over the last couple of months.

The reviews make a strong case for changing the way we do business in order to ensure a more effective response and support to sustaining peace. More integrated, coherent and holistic action is called for in order for our common goal of building and sustaining peace not to be relegated to a near afterthought, but rather to put it at the centre of what we do. That will require concerted efforts from all of us, within our respective roles, as well as a real shift towards working better together.

With only 10 years in the making, the Peacebuilding Commission is still one of the youngsters in the United Nations family. I would like to highlight three features that make the PBC a fairly unique intergovernmental advisory platform to the Security Council, upon its request, and that have made useful contributions in support of the countries with which it has engaged over the years.

First, the countries with which the PBC engages are always at the centre of our deliberations. Durable peace can be achieved only at the national level and requires strong national leadership, building, inter alia, on broad, inclusive processes. Without their perspective, our understanding will fall short of addressing the specific challenges they face. Therefore, it is imperative that we focus our support on strengthening the capacities of post-conflict countries in order for them to take the lead and exercise full national ownership. It is also therefore a critical aspect of the PBC's advisory function to help integrate the national perspectives of the countries on its agenda.

Secondly, the PBC is a staunch advocate for improved cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations such as the African Union (AU). During the just-concluded Africa Week, the impressive depth and breadth of the activities undertaken by both the AU and the regional economic communities in responding to conflict became clear.

Closer cooperation means first of all that we listen. By virtue of being neighbours in the region, these actors have a more intimate understanding of the issues at hand; they are often more invested; and they often have a lot of credibility at the national level. By drawing on these actors' knowledge and experience, we gain a deeper understanding of country-specific realities, which in turn is a prerequisite for effective United Nations support.

The Peacebuilding Commission forged stronger partnership with regional and subregional actors as a matter of priority, and we encourage others to do the same.

Thirdly, the unique composition structure of the PBC membership ensures that peacebuilding strategies receive the broad support of key stakeholders, which contribute to and engage in the process of the design and implementation of these strategies, both in New York and in the field. For example, through the membership of the top troop- and police-contributing countries, the PBC can help ensure a more holistic approach when considering decisions on transitions between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We engage with those that are implementing the often far-reaching peacekeeping mandates. Our membership also includes key donors, including the international financial

institutions. Consultations with, and contributions from, these stakeholders can help to ensure greater coherence and continuity of international engagement and support throughout the so-called conflict cycle.

Turning to the relationship between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission — a relationship that is of fundamental importance to our ability to fulfil our mandate and to deliver on our advisory function — I should like to highlight three points where our respective bodies might work even better together.

First, through its convening role of a wide array of critical regional and international actors, we can help bring a peacebuilding perspective to the Council's decision-making. Our input contributes to breaking the silos between United Nations principal organs and actors and addressing fragmentation and duplication of effort by bringing together security and development actors.

Secondly, the PBC can help formulate the post-conflict strategies of the countries requesting our advice and bring priority peacebuilding issues to the attention of the Security Council upon its request.

Lastly, in support of the drawdown phase of peacekeeping operations, the PBC's partnerships with regional organizations and international and regional financial institutions will help sustain attention and commitment from the international community to national peacebuilding priorities, focusing in particular on addressing the root causes of conflict and supporting post-conflict peacebuilding objectives.

In conclusion, the report of the Advisory Group of Experts entitled "The Challenge of Sustaining Peace" will be under consideration by Member States. It provides important recommendations on how to strengthen the relationship between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Council. The Group recommends that the Security Council regularly request and draw upon the advice of the PBC. We can certainly do more from our side as well in terms of providing more timely, relevant and strategic advice on post-conflict peacebuilding to the Council. A number of recommendations in the report aim at ensuring that we remain an effective instrument that can help the Council meet its longer-term objective, and it is certainly our ambition to try to live up to that.

I should now like to say a few words in my national capacity under rule 37 and on behalf of the Nordic countries, namely, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country, Sweden.

A few weeks ago, world leaders gathered here in New York to adopt an agenda of historic significance. The 2030 Agenda sets the world on a path towards sustainable development. A month before that, leaders met in Addis Ababa to agree on means of financing for development, and we are now optimistically looking ahead to Paris, where we are, hopefully, set to embrace a universal and ambitious climate agreement. These achievements are signs of political will. They demonstrate our ability to unite and find collective solutions to face the most serious challenges of our time. Vigorous strides are being made with respect to the development leg of the United Nations.

At the same time, the peace and security leg is hobbled. The number of conflicts in the world is at its highest since the 1960s. The number of people fleeing from war, persecution and poverty is the highest since the end of the Second World War. We have failed in prevention, and we have failed in our response. The Security Council is clearly falling short of its mandate of maintaining international peace and security. The determination that the international community has demonstrated in the areas of sustainable development financing and climate must be matched by Council resolve to redouble its efforts in support of diplomacy, good offices and political solutions. The world has a right to expect that the Security Council and its members will be guided first and foremost by the ideals set out in the United Nations Charter.

We believe that we need a more effective, representative and transparent Security Council that can adequately respond to today's challenges.

First, limiting the use of the veto would be a key step in enhancing the Council's ability to respond to global crises. Therefore, we the Nordic countries strongly support the code of conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, as well as the Franco-Mexican initiative to restrain the use of the veto. We encourage those Member States that have not done so to come forward and support those initiatives.

Secondly, we need a reformed Council that is truly representative and that reflects the geopolitical realities of today, and in which Africa, Asia and Latin America are adequately represented. The Nordic countries

support the intergovernmental process on Security Council reform and efforts to move this process forward.

Thirdly, we need more transparency. Open debates and public briefings serve to make the Council more open to the wider membership, thereby contributing to strengthening the buy-in and the legitimacy of its decisions. The use of new technology offers new opportunities.

A topical matter is the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General. We expect the Council to do its part in ensuring that the landmark resolution adopted in September (General Assembly resolution 69/321) is fully and promptly acted upon. As a first step, the next President of the Council should, together with the President of the General Assembly, kick-start the nomination process with a joint letter calling for qualified candidates, especially women.

Fourthly, we need a more holistic approach, as highlighted in all the recent reports on peace operations, peacebuilding and resolution 1325 (2000). Active consultation and dialogue with troop- and police-contributing countries and regional and subregional organizations, as well as with countries on the Council's agenda, leads to a richer understanding of the challenges and potential solutions. The use of other instruments, such as the horizon-scanning briefings, Arria Formula meetings and informal interactive dialogues, can help bring potential crises and deteriorating situations to the early attention of Council members. Such interaction helps the Council to devise preventive measures.

Finally, we need more efficiency. New non-permanent members need to be prepared when they join the Council. We welcome last year's decision to hold Council elections six months before the start of the new members' term. We note the annual Finnish workshop called "Hitting the ground running", which aims at providing new members with an in-depth orientation to Council practice, procedures and working methods.

The expectations regarding the Security Council are high. The challenges in coming to grips with the new threats are indeed very daunting, but we believe that the Council can move to become more effective. Above all, that requires political will and that members of the Council take their roles and responsibilities with the utmost sincerity and with the full realization that their task is to put the Charter of the United Nations above their narrow national interests.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Switzerland.

Mr. Lauber (Switzerland): I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing today's open debate. I am pleased to take the floor in my capacity as the coordinator of ACT, which stands for Accountability, Coherence and Transparency. Launched in 2013, ACT is a cross-regional group of 25 countries aimed at improving the working methods of the Security Council. ACT's efforts focus on the Security Council in its present composition and have remained independent from the comprehensive Security Council reform process.

How the Security Council can prevent or stop mass atrocities has garnered considerable attention. There is widespread and growing concern about the veto when employed in such cases to block Council action. In that context, ACT welcomes the political declaration presented this morning by France, addressed to the five permanent members, on the suspension of the veto in cases of mass-atrocity crimes.

However, ACT believes that all Security Council members, and indeed all States, have a role to play in improving the Council's response to atrocity crimes. Under the leadership of Liechtenstein, we have therefore prepared a code of conduct, a voluntary political commitment, which contains a pledge to support timely and decisive Security Council action in situations involving atrocity crimes, as well as a pledge not to vote against credible draft Security Council resolutions aimed at preventing or ending these crimes. Since effective Council action to prevent and end atrocity crimes is a matter for all Council members, the code is open for support by any current or potential future Security Council member — that is, all Member States. As of today, a total of 82 States have committed themselves to it. The code will be officially launched on 23 October, on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations. We encourage all Member States to commit themselves to the code before then.

Under the stewardship of Estonia and Costa Rica, ACT also played an active role in the negotiation of General Assembly resolution 69/321, on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, in particular with regard to the appointment of the next Secretary-

General. The resolution was adopted by consensus, and ACT looks forward to its full implementation. In line with that resolution, and in order for the selection process to be open and inclusive, our group encourages the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council to write a joint letter addressed to all Member States calling for nominations. To be completed on time, this process should start without delay. Following this essential first step, our group looks forward to the publication of a regularly updated list of candidates, as well as the scheduling of meetings and hearings with declared candidates.

Since the publication of presidential note S/2010/507, the Council has agreed on 10 subsequent notes, but their implementation has often proved to be unsatisfactory or inconsistent. In order to facilitate such follow-up, ACT suggests that the Council prepare a note that would consolidate and streamline all decisions taken regarding working methods.

Presidential note S/2013/515, issued in 2013, touches upon many aspects related to interaction and dialogue with non-Council members and bodies. Our group has welcomed the commitment reiterated therein to continue the practice of providing wrap-up meetings and informal briefing sessions to non-members. Seeking information and understanding regarding the Council's activities remains a crucial and legitimate request. We regret that so far this year only four wrap-up sessions have taken place.

The format of Council meetings remains another a key element of access and transparency. ACT therefore welcomes the efforts of the Council to hold open meetings. So far this year, just about half of the meetings have been public, a figure similar to last year.

ACT welcomes the 12 Arria Formula meetings organized during 2015. We want to underline that that format permits interaction with non-traditional briefers, including representatives from civil society, thereby allowing the Council to be more thoroughly informed about a given situation.

ACT notes that 19 open debates have taken place in 2015. Such debates are of crucial importance in order to hear the views of the wider membership, including troop- and police-contributing countries. However, the response of the Council to open debates remains in most cases rather limited. The outcome documents are usually adopted before the views of the wider membership are even heard. ACT therefore hopes that today's open debate on working methods can contribute to shifting this practice, and it welcomes the intention of Spain to ensure follow-up. As it did last year, ACT will produce a document that could serve as a guide for follow-up work by the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Question.

Presidential note S/2013/515 also recalls the intention of the Council to remain committed to maintaining regular communication with the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). That advisory body to the Council has a strong role to play in preventing the recurrence of conflicts. A coordinated and committed approach to post-conflict peacebuilding is key to preventing countries from falling back into conflict. ACT is convinced that the PBC can assume the role of a forum where critical situations are discussed early, in an inclusive manner and with relevant stakeholders. We also encourage the Council to invite the Chairs of the various country-specific configurations to participate regularly in Council meetings.

More generally, ACT welcomes the Council's renewed focus on prevention. We regret that horizon-scanning meetings have all but discontinued since 2013, and we would welcome enhanced engagement by the Secretary-General to inform the Council about matters that, in his opinion, may threaten international peace and security. The report of the Secretary-General on conflict prevention (S/2015/730), as well as the 2015 reviews on peace operations, women and peace and security, and the peacebuilding architecture all contain useful ideas and proposals in that regard.

The Council acts on all our behalf, on behalf of the full membership of the United Nations. This is why accountability, coherence and transparency in its work and in the implementation of its own decisions are crucial. Last week, five new members of the Security Council were elected. ACT encourages all elected members to seize the opportunities that are presented to them. Our group calls for the implementation without delay of presidential note S/2014/268, on enhancing wider participation by Council members in the work of the Council, and presidential note S/2014/393, on ensuring continuity in the work of the subsidiary bodies.

ACT notes with satisfaction the way the Council visiting missions have been recently arranged, with two countries on the Council co-leading the mission. That practice can serve as an example for the drafting of the

products of the Council. In that regard, ACT welcomes the involvement of the United Kingdom and Spain in the elaboration of resolution 2242 (2015), on women and peace and security, adopted in the past week.

Today's debate is the sixth in what has become an annual practice since 2010. Our discussion is about much more than presidential note S/2010/507 or simply working methods. It is about making the Council more effective, accountable and inclusive. It is about how to ensure that the Council carries out its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in a more transparent and effective way in order to contribute to positive developments on the ground. To that end, ACT will remain committed to working constructively with the Security Council and the wider membership.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Braun (Germany) (*spoke in French*): I speak on behalf of France and Germany, following the statement made by my French colleague.

Germany and France have consistently supported a reform of the Security Council with a view to making it more efficient and more in tune with the current global political realities. A revision of its working methods is a significant way to achieve that end. We thank those who contribute daily to the implementation of its procedures and who assist delegations, namely, the Security Council Affairs Division, under the very competent leadership of Director Movses Abelian.

We also underscore the importance of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions on the topic and its efforts towards codification, as was illustrated in the annex of concept note S/2010/507, adopted under the efficient leadership of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations. We pay tribute to the Japanese delegation and congratulate them on their recent election to the Council.

The President's concept note emphasizes the need for transparency and inclusiveness as well as the crucial role of the Secretary-General. Germany and France support a more transparent and inclusive process for selecting the Secretary-General. Our work needs to be guided by the consensus achieved through General Assembly resolution 69/321, adopted of 11 September, on revitalizing the General Assembly. It is now crucial to implement the clear provisions of the text on which all Member States have agreed. That is particularly important for the joint letter by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council on the issue of nominations for the post of Secretary-General. The resolution invites Member States to consider women candidates for the position, given the fact that to date all the Secretaries-General have been men. We firmly support that call.

We also support all efforts that will enable us to improve the transparency of the Security Council, by including non-member States through Arria Formula meetings and monthly wrap-up sessions. We will also support the efforts to promote more interactive discussions, and we would like to encourage future members of the Security Council, whom we congratulate on their recent election, to follow that path.

Finally, it is crucial to improve the working methods of the Council, but that cannot replace the urgent need for structural reforms. Germany and France would like to recall their support for the consensus decision by the General Assembly of 14 September 2015 on the issue of equitable representation and expansion of the Security Council. It is now important to enter into a phase of negotiations on the text during the next stage of intergovernmental negotiations.

If the Charter of the United Nations has withstood changing times, that is because it enshrines the most fundamental rules to help us navigate the fog of peace, to quote the title of a recent book by our friend Jean-Marie Guéhenno. I would like to conclude by saying that the text of the Charter has contributed to forging a friendship and lasting partnership between France and Germany within the European Union. It is that phenomenon that we would like to illustrate for the Council today by making this joint statement.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Mahtar (India): I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this open debate. Given the paucity of time, I will come to the substance directly.

First, we think that the openness of this debate is constricted by imposing a time limit of three minutes on non-members and no time limit for members.

Secondly, one of the more important issues before the United Nations in the coming year will be the selection of the next Secretary-General. There is a great

deal of debate on the prerogatives of the Security Council and the General Assembly in that matter. At the heart, however, is the question of the prerogatives of the five permanent member and the rest of the membership of the United Nations. To a large extent, that is determined by something as seemingly innocuous as the working methods of the Council.

My delegation has pressed for the Council to recommend two or more names to the General Assembly. While the pronouncements of the General Assembly do not specifically provide for it, there is, in our view, no legal impediment for the Council to do so. An important step would also be to do away with secret straw polls using different coloured slips that allow the five permanent members to exercise the veto without even taking ownership of it. Discussions should be held in official meetings of the Council, preferably open ones but not necessarily so. The Secretary-General should issue reports, as is usual, summarizing the proceedings. Except for April, June and October, it will be elected members who will preside over the Council in every month of 2016. It will be for them to decide whether or not the selection of the Secretary-General will remain the sole preserve of the five permanent members.

Thirdly, in the debate about transparency, we need to mention that the most non-transparent of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council is the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) — the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. No information is shared on the criteria for listing or delisting individuals and organizations on whom sanctions are applied. It is our apprehension that there may in fact be no criteria at all and that any of the 15 members may be allowed to exercise a veto without assigning any reason and without the wider membership being informed of their having done so. In April, the new Chair of the 1267 Committee organized a briefing for the wider membership of the United Nations and said that he would do so periodically. However, no meeting has since been held. His predecessor had also kept the work of the Committee cloaked in secrecy.

Fourthly, Article 44 of the Charter requires that consultations be held with troop-contributing countries before the mandates of peacekeeping operations are finalized. Regrettably, that has never happened. Again, we look towards the elected members of the Council to make a new beginning.

Fifthly, there should be transparency in determining the list of speakers in open debates. In our view, priority should be given to Member States rather than organizations with consultative status. With regard to non-members, there would be merit in beginning with Ministers followed by plenipotentiary envoys and then others.

We appreciate that the outcome of this debate will be adopted after all speakers have spoken. We would request that on the next occasion of an open debate an informal discussion should also be arranged with non-members of the Council on the content of the outcome. That would go a long way towards enhancing its acceptability.

In conclusion, I must say that the problems afflicting the Security Council go deeper than its working methods. While a focus on working methods is useful, it can in no way be a substitute for reforming the Council in a manner that would give its decisions legitimacy and acceptability.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): It is true that time is short, because there are many delegations that want to take the floor, but I would like to point out that six member delegations have limited their speaking time and that one member spoke on behalf of six. Therefore, we are applying the same rules to Council members.

I now give the floor to the representative of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you, Sir, on your wise leadership of the work of the Security Council this month, and I wish you every success. I also wish to thank you for convening this meeting on the working methods of the Council. We agree with the concept note (S/2015/793) that you have so carefully prepared.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has, on several occasions, called for the reform of the Security Council and the improvement of its working methods. We live in a world torn apart by war, violence and serious extremism, so we look to the Council to defend international security and maintain peace. The process of Security Council reform began in 1993. A number of reports and statements have been published since that date in documents calling for improvements in the Council's working methods and stressing the

complementary relationship among the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. Although positive results have been achieved in such areas as transparency and broader participation, it has, unfortunately, not yet been possible to find a comprehensive solution that allows the Security Council to address its fundamental tasks as we would have wished.

We have now reached a point in which a majority of States Members agree that there is a fundamental problem with the working methods of the Council, which affects its credibility and weakens its ability to resolve conflicts, as we can see from the Council's deadlock with respect to several issues, including the Palestinian question and the crisis in Syria. My delegation therefore appreciates all the efforts underway to improve the Council's working methods, including the initiative of French President François Hollande with respect to restrictions on the use of the veto in situations involving serious crimes and the initiatives that would support that proposal.

My delegation calls for the positive consideration of all of the ideas for reforming the Security Council, in particular those proposed by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, to which my country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, belongs, with a view to improving the working methods of the Security Council and in favour of voluntary restrictions on the use of the veto. We also support the idea of a collective agreement to remove the obstacles to accountability for war crimes and genocide, to increase transparency, including in the selection of the Secretary-General and in relations with regional organizations, and to enable the Council to accomplish its most basic and most important function, namely, the maintenance of international peace and security with a view to preventing conflicts and resolving the issues afflicting countries in post-conflict situations.

The reform of the Security Council is one of the major tasks that the international community should take up as it celebrates the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. My country stands ready to cooperate fully with other Member States in order to attain that important objective.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Alday González (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Spanish delegation for convening today's open debate and for its introduction of the concept note (S/2015/793) to guide our discussion, and we grateful for the briefings presented by the President of the General Assembly, the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council and Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson.

The growing participation of Member States in open debates such as today's demonstrates clearly that there has been gradual improvement in the working methods of the Council and provides a clear signal of the interest of the majority in advancing the goal of providing the entire membership with more transparency, accountability, inclusiveness and efficiency. We particularly acknowledge the boost that the elected members of the Security Council have given to the process in recent years, and we hope that the countries elected by the General Assembly last week to sit on the Council from January next year will strengthen that dynamic.

My delegation wishes to acknowledge the meticulous work carried out by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group through various working groups to improve the ways in which the Council and other United Nations organs can improve the interaction among them, and between each of them and the other Member States. We therefore welcome the support of ACT members for the political proposal to restrict the use of the veto in cases of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, as put forward by the Foreign Ministers of France and Mexico last month here at Headquarters. We hope that the complementary initiative on the part of ACT members will also enjoy the wide support of Member States when it is formally presented on Friday at the commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of our Organization.

Mexico sees the veto as a responsibility, not a privilege. When a permanent member uses it to block action against mass atrocities, it does so in contravention of the Charter. Limiting the use of the veto in such situations is a moral imperative and a principle underlying the accountability of the permanent members of the Council to the international community.

We also call on the Security Council, in the discharge of its role as guarantor of international peace and security, to do a better job in its advisory role to the Peacebuilding Commission, and to enhance its interaction with countries contributing troops

and police to peacekeeping operations, with timely consultations on the definition, amendment or renewal of mandates.

In recent years, we have found that the flow of information to non-Council members on what is discussed in this Chamber has improved. The desire of some countries on the Council to inform their counterparts, coupled with the work of analysis and dissemination undertaken by non-governmental organizations and academia, has also contributed to that improvement. In that context, I thank the delegation of Venezuela, which, in its capacity as representative of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, has on a daily and consistent basis shared information on the work and agenda of the Council with the rest of the regional Group.

We also believe that the issue of whether or not to hold monthly wrap-up sessions at the end of each presidency reflects the sharp division of views prevalent within the Council on its working methods. There are those who have resolved to strengthen the transparency that must prevail in the Security Council, and those who resist, reinforcing the stereotype of secrecy that has often characterized this Chamber, which inhibits a more transparent relationship between those who sit around this table for two years or on a permanent basis and those who are spectators.

We welcome the result of the process on revitalizing the work of the General Assembly regarding the election of the next Secretary-General. The active involvement of the membership and civil society enables us to move forward. We commend the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council for working in a coordinated manner to implement the provisions of the resolution. We believe that a clear timetable for the selection process and the holding of forums in which we can meet and exchange views with the candidates, perhaps using the Arria Formula format, would be very useful to the entire membership and would meet the objective of promoting greater transparency in the election of the next Secretary-General.

Similarly, we hope that the spirit of cooperation we saw in the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly will be transferred to the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform. We appreciate the work done by Ambassador Rattray as facilitator of the intergovernmental negotiations during the Assembly's sixty-ninth session and hope that his successor or successors can build on the lessons learned in the past twelve months so that they can facilitate progress with absolute transparency and objectivity.

Mexico believes that reforming the structure of the Security Council is possible if all parties place political will and commitment before any other consideration in the negotiations. We need a more effective, transparent and representative Security Council that is able to adequately respond to the challenges that arise in the international agenda.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank Spain for convening today's open debate, which we realize is the result of great efforts by our Organization at this time when we are celebrating its seventieth anniversary.

As the President's concept note (S/2015/793, annex) rightly states, although very significant progress has been made in the working methods of the Security Council, there is room for more improvement and for better implementation, which will help to boost the effectiveness of the Council's decisions and to provide greater coordination with other organs of the United Nations. As the representative of Angola noted earlier, the Council's work lies at the heart of the work of the Organization.

I would like to discuss two points that Colombia considers worthy of highlighting.

First, one of the issues that has a direct impact on the work of the Security Council is naturally related to the enormous challenge of bringing about lasting peace in conflict areas or places that have just emerged from conflict, and although the Peacebuilding Commission — we have just heard from its Chairperson, the Permanent Representative of Sweden — the Peacebuilding Fund, the Peacebuilding Support Office and other operational peacebuilding entities play a key role, the issue remains part of the Security Council's responsibilities. As the report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture states, it is necessary to have a more comprehensive approach to peace consolidation, one that avoids fragmentation and a silo mentality in the roles of the General Assembly and the Security Council and that takes into account the fact that not only are military and field operations

part of the Council's responsibilities, but so are conflict prevention, recovery and rebuilding operations in post-conflict situations.

Secondly, with respect to the resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (General Assembly resolution 69/321), my country, along with many others, played a very active role in the negotiations on the draft. We believe its adoption stands as great recognition of our work and an important step towards greater transparency and more inclusiveness in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General. Clear guidelines like the joint letter from the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council outlining and explaining the procedure, continual sharing of information on the candidates, and informal dialogues or meetings with candidates are of enormous importance. All this will support greater involvement of the membership, which I think has begun. The resolution is a fundamental part of our vision of working methods reform. Colombia calls for its implementation without hesitation.

Another initiative that is very dear to my country, which 48 Member States have joined, is the search for suitable women candidates for the position of Secretary-General. The historic role that a woman could play at this new stage would be the beginning of great progress in reform. Like these 48 nations, I am sure that we can work together on this proposal, which hopefully can be a great historic opportunity — as many here have said, beginning with the President and many other members of the Council, for whose support I am grateful — to initiate those changes and bring together the visions that civil society, academia and of course the Organization itself have as we approach the important election of the next Secretary- General of the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Poland.

Mr. Winid (Poland): I would like to thank the President for organizing today's meeting and for Spain's devotion to discussing the working methods of the Security Council.

Guided by the President's excellent concept note (S/2015/793, annex), I would like to focus on just two issues, especially on the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly, with special emphasis on the selection and the appointment of the Secretary-General.

More transparency, inclusiveness and greater interaction with the candidates should guide the process of electing the next Secretary-General. We were pleased to include these aspects in the recent General Assembly resolution, 69/321, on revitalization of the Assembly's work, negotiated under the very able leadership of Ambassadors Vladimir Drobnjak of Croatia and Wilfried Emvula of Namibia. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on their reappointment to their positions.

Like Colombia, Poland is in favour of presenting women candidates for the position of Secretary-General and therefore welcomes the relevant provisions in resolution 69/321. In our opinion, choosing a female Secretary-General would constitute a significant step towards achieving gender balance throughout the entire United Nations system.

Yet another fundamental principle serving as a cornerstone of our work within the United Nations is geographical distribution. On this occasion, I would like to recall that in the 70-year history of our Organization, the Secretary-General has never been appointed from among candidates from the Eastern European Group. We therefore believe that the Council should take regional rotation duly into account in its recommendation of a candidate to the General Assembly.

We are looking forward to an official start of the process of selecting the next Secretary-General by the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council, as envisaged in the Assembly resolution. We also hope that the cooperation between the Council and the Assembly during the upcoming election will set a good example and standards for the future.

I would also take this opportunity to emphasize that comprehensive Security Council reform is not limited only to the Council's working methods. This is a matter of great importance to my country. We are looking forward to a swift resumption of the intergovernmental negotiations, which were skilfully conducted by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica, Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, during the Assembly's last session. While welcoming the progress reached so far in improving the Council's working methods, Poland believes that further increasing transparency in the Council's activities would serve not only the wider membership, but also the Council itself.

In my final 10 seconds, I would like to say that it is remarkable how much more an organization can

achieve by making very simple adjustments to its working methods. Small steps can be taken that will hopefully lead us to more comprehensive reform of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the United Nations as a whole.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Guatemala.

Ms. Rodríguez Pineda (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): We welcome this timely debate, held as we mark the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations and aimed at promoting efforts to achieve an accountable, more transparent and effective Security Council, adapted to the world of today. We would also like to thank the briefers for their presentations, all of which help to give us an up-to-date picture of their work and of the interaction between the various organs of the United Nations.

Today I would like to discuss three issues of particular relevance to the working methods of the Security Council.

First, the use of the veto by those who have that right has frequently prevented this body from complying fully with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations. It does not foster unity or encourage us to seek a common understanding, and far from helping to defend the collective interest, it obstructs and undermines it.

We also believe firmly that we must take specific action if we are to enable the Security Council to prevent and stop mass atrocities. As a first step, we could limit the use of the veto in cases of atrocities, and we therefore support France and Mexico's proposal for restraint in its use, and for a code of conduct for Security Council actions against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. However, we must not stop there. We should keep in mind that the area in which the Security Council has had the greatest failure has been in implementing and genuinely following up on its own decisions. It is in everyone's interest to ensure that those decisions are complied with effectively.

Secondly, Guatemala is concerned about the increase in the number of letters sent to the presidency of the Council with the aim of justifying military action taken in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. In our view, while we are aware of the underlying problems related to the Article, when we are discussing the Council's working methods we should question whether such communications genuinely comply with the obligation under the Charter to report immediately any action taken under that provision. It is clear that most of the time such letters are sent ex post facto simply in order to justify actions that have already been taken. Also questionable is the legality of their open format, which assumes the argument that once a communication has been sent any future military action can be justified. From our point of view, such communications do not exempt the Council from its responsibility to maintain international peace and security in each of these situations individually, and it is one of the reasons it is vital to ensure proper compliance and control of the use of this format.

Thirdly, I would like to briefly discuss the selection and election process for the next Secretary-General. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 69/321 showed that it is possible to achieve changes in anachronistic processes in the Organization that do not respond to the times we live in. Despite the fact that some progress has been made, Guatemala regrets the fact that no agreement was reached on issues such as requiring the Security Council to recommend several candidates to the General Assembly and the Secretary-General's term of office and re-election. The Council will be discussing them, but we should recall that the Secretary-General is appointed by the entire membership and the decision must therefore be made jointly. At this time, when we are conducting serious reviews of many key points of the United Nations system, a critical analysis of the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General should be a priority. It is time that we began to act and revitalize the process in a judicious manner, acknowledging the realities of the present and anticipating future challenges.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan.

Mr. Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan): I would like to thank the Spanish presidency for convening today's open debate on reforming the working methods of the Security Council, for which my delegation would like to make the following proposals.

First, an analysis of current conflicts and geopolitical tensions demands that we not only conduct a review but institute an immediate, appropriate, strategic and transparent implementation of the necessary reforms.

Second, the Security Council should accord the Assembly greater importance and be ready to learn

from its Member States' collective wisdom. That can be achieved through closer cooperation on the part of the Council with the Presidents of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The latter could be transformed into a global development council, to be developed collectively, working towards the centenary of the United Nations, under a new plan for a 2045 global strategic initiative, a vision proposed by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, last month in his address to the General Assembly during the general debate (see A/70/PV.13).

Third, holding more open meetings will improve synergy, transparency and cooperation. There should be genuine, meaningful interaction among Member States rather than prepared statements that are read out.

Fourth, for new non-permanent members to perform effectively from the start, we propose that during the interim period after their election but before they take their seats, they be allowed to attend meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, as well as informal consultations of the whole, in order to become acquainted with their new roles.

Fifth, regarding the election of the next Secretary-General, my delegation believes that the slate of candidates should be shared with the General Assembly so that it can have a greater say in the selection of the Organization's highest position.

Sixth, the rule of law should govern not only internal relations within countries but should also be used to ensure more agreement among Members of the Council, who should abide by it, transcending their national interests. In that regard, my President has also proposed that in 2016 the United Nations convene a high-level international conference designed to reaffirm the basic principles of international law.

Seventh, the use of the veto should be exercised with the greatest caution, particularly in certain circumstances that call for clearly defined guidelines.

Eighth, any sanctions should be imposed by the Security Council, with a proper assessment of their impact, and should not be imposed unilaterally.

And finally, what we need most is not just reform but a change in attitude. The national interests of Member States must be balanced with greater objectivity and a global perspective.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Yoshikawa (Japan) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would first like to thank all the Members of the United Nations for the great support they have given us in enabling us to serve on the Security Council. I am also grateful for the congratulations we have received today. It will be a great honour and pleasure to work with everyone on the Security Council beginning in January 2016.

(*spoke in English*)

In order to save time, I will make only salient points here and circulate my full text afterwards.

Improving the Security Council's working methods has always been one of Japan's priorities. We therefore welcome Spain's initiative in holding today's open debate and are very grateful for its concept note (S/2015/793, annex), which makes very valid points. I am also grateful for the work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, chaired by the Permanent Representative of Angola. On that issue, I would like to mention that after the presidential note S/2010/507 was issued in 2010 by the Working Group under the Japanese chairship, the Working Group issued a total of 10 more notes.

And yet what we have done to date is not enough.

Let me refer to a couple of concrete proposals. There is a proposal on the participation of the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the chairs of the Commission's country-specific configurations. There are also proposals and a General Assembly resolution concerning the process for selecting and appointing the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 69/321). Many previous speakers addressed this subject.

Concerning the issue of the veto, initiatives put forward — most notably by France and by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group — on restraining its use in situations of mass atrocities have received growing support. Japan supports both these initiatives.

This is the twenty-second open debate that I have had the honour to address since assuming the post of Permanent Representative of Japan two years ago. Open debates are in general a useful means for the Council to learn more about the views of non-Council members. However, most of the 22 open debates I have attended were just statement after statement, with little follow-up. Although non-Council members bring valuable input, very rarely do they receive feedback

from the Council. The only exceptions that I remember are France and New Zealand this year, when summaries produced by the President were shared with us. Thus I am afraid that open debates have not served their intended purpose. I therefore welcome and support your concept note (S/2015/793, annex), Mr. President, which addresses this particular issue, and especially your intention to adopt an outcome at a later stage. This is indeed what note S/2012/922 recommends.

Japan has had the pleasure of serving as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions twice in the past. Once on the Council, my delegation is determined to contribute actively to the Working Group, in cooperation with other members of the Council and also with the wider United Nations membership.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands.

Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands): I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Let me first express appreciation to Spain for organizing this important open debate.

As the United Nations marks its seventieth anniversary, we are faced with a conflict-ridden world, numbers of displaced persons and refugees unheard of since the Second World War, and a global terrorist threat emanating from an increasing number of non-State armed groups. Today's crises, more than ever, call for a Security Council with its doors wide open to the outside world and its concerns. Against that backdrop, the Council's working methods should be adapted with the need for an effective, inclusive and transparent Security Council in mind. Improvements have been made in the past, but there is still much to be done. Let me share our views regarding three aspects of working methods: transparency, inclusiveness and effectiveness.

With respect to transparency, and with regard to strengthening the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly, the process of the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General is of eminent importance. Significant steps were made with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 69/321, such as the decision to request the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council to start the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Secretary-General through a joint letter addressed to all Member States. In this regard, let me acknowledge the individual efforts made by both permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council. We encourage the Council to contribute further to the transparency of the selection process through the implementation of resolution 69/321, as well as by organizing meetings open to the wider membership and civil society, such as Arria Formula meetings, with candidates for the position of Secretary-General.

With regard to inclusiveness, we would welcome increased cooperation between members and non-members of the Council, in order to widen support for the Council's decisions among the general membership and beyond. This is of particular importance when the Council discusses situations that affect the interests of a country that is not a member of the Council. In a similar vein, greater involvement of troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries when discussing specific peace operations would contribute to greater support for the mandates of such operations and, therefore, to a more effective fulfilment of those mandates.

Other options include regular public briefings by special envoys and special representatives of the Secretary-General and public horizon-scanning briefings by the Secretary-General. The latter option would also increase the Council's ability to operate in a proactive and preventive manner. In addition, both the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture underline that, in order to achieve sustainable peace, all United Nations actors must come together in a much more coherent way. Building sustainable peace is a long-term endeavour that requires attention throughout the whole conflict cycle and beyond the immediate aftermath of a crisis.

From this point of view, we could benefit from closer cooperation between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. The Council could draw upon the Commission's advice regarding peacebuilding dimensions of mandates. This would help ensure that the mandates, benchmarks and reviews of peace operations reflect the longer view required for sustaining peace. The Peacebuilding Commission might also play a useful role for countries transitioning off the agenda of the Security Council.

With respect to effectiveness, let me recall the pressing need for the Security Council to take action

in the case of mass atrocities. Increasingly, we see civilian populations at risk of mass atrocities. The Council has a duty to use its powers to prevent and halt these atrocities. However, on several occasions this Council failed to exercise its responsibility due to the use of the veto. In the case of risk of mass atrocities, the use of the veto is irreconcilable with the fundamental purposes and principles of the United Nations. It delegitimizes both the Council and the United Nations as a whole. What remains is an image of the United Nations as an organization incapable of fulfilling its core responsibilities.

We therefore recommend that all current and future Council members — indeed, all States Members of the United Nations — support and implement the proposals of France and Mexico, as well as the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group, to support timely and decisive action by the Security Council aimed at preventing or ending the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

We need a Security Council that is transparent in its working methods and inclusive towards non-Council members and other United Nations organs and that acts effectively and decisively for the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular when faced with mass atrocities. The seventieth anniversary of the United Nations provides an excellent opportunity to reform the working methods of the Security Council and to ensure that it can operate truly in the spirit of the Charter.

It is up to all of us, members and non-members alike, to seize this moment. In that spirit, and speaking in my national capacity as the representative of an aspiring member of the Security Council for the 2017-2018 term, I would like to pledge the commitment of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and effectiveness, on and off the Council, as a partner for peace, justice and development.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There are a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. With the consent of the members of the Council, I shall suspend the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7539 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7539th meeting
Tuesday, 20 October 2015, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi	(Spain)
Members:	Angola	Ms. Jorge
	Chad	Mr. Baomian Beuryo
	Chile	Mr. Cabezas Reveco
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	France	Mr. Chuzeville
	Jordan	Mr. Obeidat
	Lithuania	Mrs. Juodkaitė Putrimienė
	Malaysia	Mr. Abdul Razak
	New Zealand	Mr. Sheeran
	Nigeria	Mr. Adamu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Repkin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Jobbins
	United States of America	Mr. Lynch
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Arcia Vivas

Agenda

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

Letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/793)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-32468 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting resumed at 3.05 p.m.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with the concept note circulated for this open debate (S/2015/793, annex), I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements as follows: joint statements, up to 10 minutes; national statements complementing joint statements, 2 minutes; and national statements, 3 minutes. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I would like to appeal to speakers to deliver their statements at a normal speed so that interpretation may be provided properly.

I now give the floor to the representative of Thailand.

Mr. Bamrungphong (Thailand): As we celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations this year, and as conflicts continue to pose grave threats in many parts of the world, the Security Council must remain effective in carrying out the primary responsibility conferred on it by Member States for the maintenance of international peace and security. Thailand firmly believes that, in order to be effective, the Council and its subsidiary bodies must be efficient and transparent, ensure inclusive participation, and be accountable. Let me share with the Council the following views.

First, sanctions are important tools for maintaining and restoring peace and security. To remain effective in deterring actions that threaten peace and security, the Council should exercise the utmost care in devising targeted sanctions. Sanctions regimes should minimize unintended economic and social consequences. Thailand welcomes a research-based approach, including the use of statistical analysis to evaluate and quantify the impact and effectiveness of sanctions and to provide valuable guidance for future policymaking. The application of clear criteria in the listing and delisting of those on the sanctions lists is also of great importance. In that regard, streamlined communications with Member States would effectively help the latter to address the increasing number of sanctions-related issues. Another tool to improve the Council's effectiveness is the Security Council's annual report, which should be more than a collection of resolutions and statistics and should include assessments and ways forward.

Secondly, it is important to ensure transparency in the Council's deliberations. Thailand urges members of the Council to continue convening public meetings, thereby engaging the wider membership of the United Nations, particularly on issues of broad impact and complexity. Closed meetings and informal consultations are necessary, but Council members should share information, developments and outcomes with the wider membership of the United Nations through frequent briefing sessions. The Council should also engage with countries on issues related to their situation that affect international peace and security. Thailand is in agreement with the improvements identified by Spain in the concept paper (S/2015/793, annex) as ways of making open debates more interactive and productive.

Thirdly, there is no greater threat to the Council's credibility and effectiveness than the inability to respond in a timely and decisive manner to prevent loss of life through mass atrocities. The Council must remain committed to its obligations and act to prevent genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The proposal put forward by France and Mexico on the code of conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group are reasonable and commendable. Thailand lends its support to those initiatives.

Lastly, in addition to working with all Member States towards the noble goals of the Charter of the United Nations, the Council must also work with the other organs of the United Nations to enhance synergies and to avoid the overlapping of mandates. That aspect will be of particular importance in 2016, during the selection process for the next Secretary-General. Thailand supports the essential roles of both the Council and the General Assembly in a transparent and inclusive selection process, as outlined in Assembly resolution 69/231.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): I thank you, Mr. President. The debate on the Council's working methods is timely. We, as Member States, must work together and with the Organization to satisfy the growing demand for effective multilateralism. Those efforts involve every United Nations body, including the Council.

First, we must acknowledge that today's security challenges are different from those of the past. The

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) introduces an integrated approach to sustainable development by linking together the five Ps of the Agenda: people, prosperity, partnership, planet and peace. Its implementation will require a fresh look at working methods and effective synergies among the various bodies of the United Nations. Similar challenges are posed by the need for an integrated approach to implement the recommendations stemming from the three major reviews underway on the future of peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the role of women in peace and security. Improvements have already been achieved. Nevertheless, Italy believes there is room for further improvement. Allow me to highlight some potential areas.

We believe that the Council could make use of the tools at its disposal, including informal meetings and briefings, to foster synergies with the other bodies of the Organization. At the same time, we share the view that closer attention should be paid to wider security issues, which are a matter of concern to the wider membership. As an example of best practice, allow me to refer to the open debate held during the New Zealand presidency of the Council on the security challenges facing small island developing States (see S/PV.7499). We fully supported that initiative and followed it up by organizing a ministerial meeting in Milan on climate adaptation and food security in small island developing States. Let me also mention the issue of migration as a joint integrated challenge confronting us.

Secondly, knowledge leads to prevention. We must act ahead of crises, rather than react after the fact. Information-sharing is key, and interaction between the Council and the Secretary-General can indeed foster awareness and early warning. Italy is committed to providing additional support to the Department of Political Affairs to ensure an effective deployment of mediation teams where needed. We also welcome the strengthening of early warning mechanisms, such as the Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes, the Rights Up Front Initiative and the role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. All of them represent valuable tools whose potential will have to be fully exploited.

That leads me to my third point, which concerns the revitalization of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, in connection with the work of the Council and the systematic recourse to cooperation with regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII. We should collectively renew our focus on the peaceful settlement of disputes, by promoting good offices and mediation efforts and by apportioning work to regional and sub-regional partners.

Fourthly, we must not shy away from debating the reform of the Council, with a view to making it more representative, transparent, democratic, effective and accountable. While the membership is engaged in seeking a appropriate and comprehensive compromise solution that includes all five clusters, we believe that there is scope for action under the current system to further improve the Council's working methods. Bearing that in mind, Italy has endorsed both the joint French/Mexican initiative and the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group's code of conduct to limit the use of the veto on issues linked to mass atrocities and crimes, as provided for under the Rome Statute.

My last point is that we should invest in the preventive power of justice by fighting impunity and promoting accountability. Improved working methods are crucial to the Security Council's ability to fulfil its responsibilities. As Vice-President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, I stress the importance of responsible follow-up to cases referred to the Court by the Council. We believe that the Council should have a forum where international criminal justice issues can be regularly discussed, bearing in mind the various sensitivities at stake.

In conclusion, the aforementioned is part of Italy's commitment to improving the working methods of the Security Council. Italy will consistently pursue the goal of a more transparent, efficient and accountable Council, where elected members can make a bigger contribution to its work by acting as a bridge towards non-Council members and their concerns. Enhancing the transparency and efficiency of the Council's working methods should be a constant objective for all Member States. The general membership of the Organization can rely on Italy's strong determination in that endeavour.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt): In recent years, notable improvements have been introduced into the working methods of the Council, including the holding of more frequent open debates, public briefings, interactive

dialogues and wrap-up sessions. Nevertheless, there is, in our view, always room, as well as the need, for more transparency and efficiency in the Council's work. Mindful of the time limitations today, I will limit my comments to the matters that we consider to be of the greatest priority.

First, the work of the Council is a collective responsibility. Equal participation and contribution on the part of all Council members, permanent and elected, in the conduct of activities and the formulation of outcomes is a fundamental principle. The Council could benefit from more deliberations and consultations among its members, as well as the timely and transparent exchange of information. Such a collective approach would help to further democratize the Council's decision-making process and ensure that it is more legitimate and effective.

Secondly, We firmly support a more robust engagement between the Council and the wider membership of the United Nations, including, first and foremost, those countries particularly affected by specific crises. The Council should also enhance the participation of troop- and police-contributing countries in its decision-making process. We would like to recall, in that respect, the relevant provisions of the President's note in document S/2010/507, and affirm that consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries should address the political and long-term strategy of the relevant peacekeeping missions. We also stress the need for practical and more meaningful partnerships with regional and subregional organizations. We welcome, in that regard, the calls by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture for a stronger, more inclusive, global and regional partnership in peace and security.

Thirdly, it is essential to improve cooperation between the Security Council and the other United Nations bodies. That does not pertain only to the General Assembly, but also to the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), the ongoing reviews of peace operations, peacebuilding and the most recently issued global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) all offer a unique opportunity to draw upon the broad-based membership of those bodies and to ensure a more holistic approach to sustaining peace and to reinforcing the linkages between the three pillars of the work of the United Nations. There is a need for closer cooperation and interaction among those organs, while observing a balanced respect for their respective functions and mandates.

Speaking of transparent and effective cooperation between the General Assembly and the Security Council, I wish to address the most important task that the two organs have to undertake jointly during the coming year, which is the selection of the new Secretary-General of the Organization. Last month, the General Assembly adopted landmark resolution 69/321, which paves the way for a transparent and merit-based selection process. By doing so, the Assembly addressed some of the multiple imperfections that have negatively impacted the process for the past 70 years. Now, with this resolution, the responsibility for its timely and effective implementation falls collectively upon us. In this connection, Egypt urges the expeditious commencement of the process through a joint letter from the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

As we have heard from various speakers today, the demand for greater efficiency and openness is real, improvements are overdue, and solutions exist. It is therefore important to take stock of all the valuable proposals that were made today by Member States and to translate them into concrete action. I assure the Council of Egypt's support for any measure it takes towards this goal.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Estonia.

Ms. Lind (Estonia): Estonia, as a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group, aligns itself with the statement delivered by Switzerland and would like to make some additional remarks on the issue of the appointment of the next Secretary-General. My statement is endorsed by the 26 States members of ACT.

As Philip Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield, said several centuries ago: "Many a man would rather you heard his story than granted his request". Although the wider membership would definitely value reflection on more suggestions coming from outside the Security Council, the main goal should be increased ownership of the Council's work by all countries.

Estonia cannot speak from first-hand experience about the complicated everyday work of the Security

Council, since we have never served as one of its members. But we truly believe in the positive impact of open and inclusive processes. We saw very clearly the importance of effective and substantive communication between the permanent members of the Security Council and the wider membership during negotiations on General Assembly resolution 69/321, on the revitalization of the work of the Assembly. ACT, with Costa Rica and Estonia in the forefront in those negotiations, is pleased with the outcome and consensual adoption on 11 September of the resolution, which set up a structured process for the selection of the next Secretary-General.

Of course, implementation is key. Over the years, we have seen many resolutions adopted but not implemented on the issue of the selection of the next Secretary-General. We must change this. As a first step, a joint letter from the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council should be sent to all Member States calling for nominations. We would hope to receive this letter in the coming weeks so as to set in motion the whole process before the end of the year.

The President of the General Assembly has received a very strong mandate from the resolution on the revitalization of the Assembly; the elements of the letter are also outlined therein. Now we are looking for the Council to do its part. In this regard, we were pleased to hear about the informal discussions that the Security Council had under the New Zealand presidency in July.

More generally, our main concern should be ensuring that the best candidates come forward and are considered based on concrete selection criteria. In 1945, the United Nations Preparatory Commission said that, "The Secretary-General, more than anyone else, will stand for the United Nations as a whole". We want to ensure that all Member States, as well as the wider international community, have the possibility of learning about the vision of the candidates presented and interacting with them.

Additionally, and finally, we believe that after 70 years the time has come to be even more innovative. Therefore we are of the opinion that in making the final decision, preference should be given to equally qualified female candidates. We also look forward to a thorough discussion at this session of the duration of the term in office of the Secretary-General, including the option of a single, non-renewable term.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Ms. Bird (Australia): As Article 24 of the Charter makes clear, Security Council members act on behalf of the United Nations membership as a whole. This open debate usefully enables the broader United Nations membership to inform the Council of its expectations.

Let me briefly highlight a few working-method reforms that Australia believes should be priorities.

First, with respect to atrocity prevention, proposals calling for restraint on use of the veto and negative votes in situations involving mass atrocities are fundamental working-method reforms which should be supported.

Secondly, concerning conflict prevention, the peacebuilding review found that the Council should do better on conflict prevention and that overcoming fragmentation between the principal organs of the United Nations would strengthen its work in preventing conflict and sustaining peace. To this end, the Council should draw more regularly on the Peacebuilding Commission's advice.

The Council should also make better use of early-warning mechanisms and timely briefings on threats. The Secretariat should be empowered to bring to the Council's attention emerging threats, in line with the Human Rights Up Front initiative and Article 99 of the Charter.

Thirdly, a better informed Council is a more effective Council. The use of a diverse range of briefers and informal mechanisms such as Arria-Formula meetings will help ensure that the Council is well informed.

Fourthly, concerning procedural decisions, the Council's general practice of deciding on procedural matters by consensus is appropriate. But where consensus cannot be reached on crucial matters, the Council should not prevent itself from taking the necessary action. That was the case with the vote that took place in December 2014 (see S/PV.7353) that placed on the Council's agenda the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Finally, with respect to improved interaction with the General Assembly, let me note, as many others have today, that last month the General Assembly adopted by consensus historic resolution 69/321, which demands greater transparency in the selection of the Secretary-General. The onus is now on the Council to act soon,

including by issuing a joint letter by the Presidents of the Council and the General Assembly to solicit candidate nominations.

Australia recently announced its candidacy for the 2029-2030 Council term. Working-methods reform in the interim will help determine whether the Council at that time will be transparent, credible and effective.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Percaya (Indonesia): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this open debate on issues of importance to the majority of Member States.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

To ensure that the Security Council is fully enabled to carry out its responsibilities and that its actions are owned by the wider Member States, robust cooperation, communication, genuine consultation and support vis-à-vis all States Members of the United Nations is crucial. In that regard, allow me to emphasize six important points.

First, the Security Council should conduct the process of dialogue and interaction with States that are non-members of the Security Council in the context of a more meaningful and genuine conversation. In addition, Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter should be implemented fully by taking seriously into consideration the views of the non-member countries affected in dealing with conflict situations under the purview of the Council.

Secondly, it is my delegation's view that the Council should focus more strongly on Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter. Therefore, there should be a strengthened mechanism for consultations with regional and subregional organizations in resolving regional security issues of global concern.

Indonesia therefore underscores that the Council, in this regard, should pay greater attention to conflict prevention and to the quest for political solutions to global conflicts.

Thirdly, strengthened, balanced and harmonious cooperation between the Security Council and the General Assembly is equally critical. The Council should also take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly on matters relating to international peace and security, consistent with Article 11, paragraph 2, of the Charter. A comprehensive and analytical monthly assessment of the work of the Council would greatly facilitate the provision of relevant inputs to the Council by the wider membership, including through the General Assembly, on peace and security issues of common concern. Indonesia attaches great importance to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 69/321 on the revitalization of the General Assembly, in particular closer collaboration between the Security Council and the General Assembly on the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General.

Fourthly, because of the exercise of the veto and the threat to exercise the veto, the Council has too often taken no action in the face of mass atrocities and serious threats to international peace and security. Indonesia supports the abolishment of the veto. However, considering the entrenched realities, we welcome any steps that would strictly regulate the use of the veto. The Council should determine a workable mechanism to ensure that the veto will not impede the cause of humankind and justice.

Fifthly, Indonesia underscores the importance of enhanced and regular consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries throughout all stages of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Finally, it is worth recalling that merely improving the working methods is not a solution to the larger problem. Our efforts cannot be limited to procedures. The global citizenry looks to the Council to be responsive, effective, fair and just in resolving conflicts in accordance with international law. Regrettably, lingering cases, such as those of Palestine and Syria, illustrate all the ways in which the Council has failed. Indonesia will therefore continue to be relentless in calling for and contributing to efforts to realize a democratic, judicious, transparent, accountable and effective Council that reflects the plurality and concerns of all people.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): Liechtenstein is a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group and aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Switzerland on behalf of the group. We have been leading the Group's efforts to make the Security Council more effective in preventing or ending atrocity crimes. It is on that subject that I wish to make the following brief remarks.

The people of the world expect the Council to protect them from genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes — the worst crimes under international law. Too often, the Council has failed to live up to those expectations, such as in Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s and in Syria and other places as we speak. Such well-known examples illustrate the human and political cost of inaction, but there are many others, including situations that never even made it on to the Council's agenda.

It is for that reason that our group has come together to prepare a code of conduct for States regarding Security Council action against atrocity crimes. We have done so in a process of detailed consultation with States, the Secretariat and civil society. The product is a text that reflects the political commitment of States and that, over time, will help us create a culture of political accountability, which is needed to make the Council more effective and legitimate.

By committing to the code, States pledge that, while serving as members of the Council, they will support timely and decisive action by the Council to prevent or end atrocity crimes. As part of that general commitment, they also pledge more specifically not to vote against a credible draft resolution submitted to that end. Eighty-three States from all regions of the world have already signed on to the code of conduct. That includes seven members of the current Council and three of the five States that were just elected to serve on it starting in 2016. That is an impressive number, and we are confident that many more States are to follow.

The code of conduct will be launched this Friday, 23 October, by our Foreign Minister at an event open to everybody. The more States that join the initiative by Friday, the stronger the call for change in the way the Council addresses atrocity crimes will be. We therefore urge all States Members of the United Nations that have not yet done so to join the code of conduct within the next few days, so that they can be reflected in the original list of supporters.

The code of conduct is an important and serious political commitment for any State that serves on the Council. It also represents a minimum standard that we expect any Council member to live up to, as they are called upon to collectively exercise the primary responsibility for international peace and security on our behalf. We are confident that the code-of-conduct initiative can bring about an essential change in the decision-making of the Council.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the observer of the Holy See.

Mr. Carroll (Holy See): My delegation wishes to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on the Security Council's working methods and wishes to raise four points.

First, there is a need for genuine equity among Member States with regard to the influence that they can exert on the decision-making processes in the various United Nations bodies, including the Security Council. Pope Francis, in his address to the General Assembly on 25 September, affirmed that, beyond the many achievements of the United Nations,

> "the experience of the past 70 years has shown that reform and adaptation to the times are always essential as we work towards the ultimate goal of ensuring that all countries without exception can participate in our decisions and have a genuine and equitable influence on them" (*A/70/PV.3, p. 3*).

My delegation believes that Member States would like to have an equitable share in influence, especially in the Security Council, the only United Nations body with the power to make binding decisions. That calls for greater interactivity; in particular, it requires real open debates and a willingness to take into account the views of the wider membership and the actors in the various conflicts being considered. Such views can bring greater legitimacy to the Council, helping it to better shape its understanding of crisis situations and improving its ability to respond.

Moreover, in order to show greater consideration of the views of the wider membership, the Council may want to re-examine its practice of first adopting a resolution on a matter that is only subsequently debated by the wider United Nations membership. There are, doubtlessly, good reasons for that practice. However, it makes some of the wider membership wonder if their inputs really matter and if the resolution has already been decided on and adopted before they are heard.

Secondly, with regard to the question of the transparency that the wider membership demands from the Council, we hear that voice getting stronger lately, not only in the context of the bigger question of the reinvigoration of the work of the United Nations as it turns 70, but also in the more immediate context

of the selection of the Organization's next Secretary-General. In that regard, it is imperative that the Security Council and the General Assembly maintain a transparent working relationship. As laid out in General Assembly resolution 69/321, the membership deems that the criteria for qualified candidates must include proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations, strong diplomatic communication and multilingual skills, while considering equal and fair distribution based on gender and geographical balance.

Thirdly, on the question of fairness in the application of the Charter of the United Nations and all international agreements and treaties, my delegation believes that the arbitrary interpretation of existing laws and the application of double standards in dealing with the parties in conflict are some of the underlying causes of the feelings of victimization that turn into hatred and violence.

Fourthly, the United Nations, and the Council in particular, would acquire greater authority and legitimacy if countries could discern clear and effective criteria for the application of the principle of the responsibility to protect and for the corresponding invocation of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The responsibility to protect all peoples from massive atrocities, instances of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is today widely recognized and accepted. Yet, it is not easy to carry out that duty in practice because of the prevailing geopolitical interests and, not least, because actions under that principle can lead to conflicts with a strictly literal interpretation of another principle, that of non-intervention, as enshrined in paragraph 7 of Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations. Nonetheless, owing to the unacceptable human costs of inaction, the search for effective juridical means for practical applications of the principle of the responsibility to protect must be one of the most urgent priorities of the United Nations.

The Holy See strongly supports any initiative and any step towards achieving a more effective and concrete application of the principle of the responsibility to protect, especially in cases of mass atrocities.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Khoshroo (Islamic Republic of Iran): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

At the outset, let me express the appreciation of NAM to you, Mr. President, and the Spanish presidency of the Council for convening this debate on the Council's working methods and for presenting the concept note (S/2015/793, annex) on the issue. NAM welcomes this open debate, since it provides an opportunity for the entire United Nations membership to express their views on Security Council working methods and encourages the broader membership to participate in the debate.

For NAM, transparency, openness and consistency are key elements that the Security Council should observe in all its activities, approaches and procedures. We regret that the Council has neglected those important elements on numerous instances. Examples of that failing can be seen in its reluctance to convene open debates on some issues of high significance, its holding of unscheduled open debates with selective notifications, its practice of repeatedly restricting participation in certain debates and of discriminating between members and non-members of the Council, particularly with regard to the sequence and time limits of statements allowed during the open debates.

In view of the time limit and the fact that the NAM position on the subject at hand is reflected in the May 2014 final document of the seventeenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, I will confine myself to the following nine specific measures that NAM calls for with a view to improving the working methods of the Council and enhancing its efficiency in fulfilling its primary responsibility.

First, the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, which have remained provisional for 70 years, should be formalized in order to improve its transparency and accountability.

Second, the number of public meetings should be increased, in accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter of the United Nations, and the meetings should provide real opportunities to take into account the views and contributions of the wider membership of the United Nations, particularly non-members of the Council whose affairs are under discussion by the Council.

Third, closed meetings and informal consultations should be kept to a minimum and should be the exception rather than the rule, as they were meant to be. Meetings should be open, especially when they include briefings by the Special Envoys or Representatives of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretariat.

Fourth, the establishment of subsidiary organs by the Council should be in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and those organs should function in a manner that provides adequate and timely information on their activities to the broad United Nations membership.

Fifth, the annual reports of the Security Council to the General Assembly should be more explanatory, comprehensive and analytical, assessing the work of the Council, including such cases in which the Council has failed to act, and should include the views expressed by members during the consideration of the agenda items. We also call on the Council to elaborate on the circumstances under which it adopts the various outcomes, whether resolutions, presidential statements, press statements or other elements to the press.

Sixth, the Council should, pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 15 and paragraph 3 of Article 24of the Charter of the United Nations, submit special reports for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Seventh, the Council should ensure that its monthly assessments are comprehensive and analytical and that they are issued in a timely fashion. The General Assembly may consider proposing parameters for the elaboration of such assessments.

Eighth, the Council should fully take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly on matters relating to international peace and security, consistent with paragraph 2 of Article 1 of the Charter.

Ninth, the Council should cease its ongoing attempts to shift issues on the agenda of the General Assembly or the United Nations Economic and Social Council over to the Security Council and the encroachment by the latter on the functions and powers of the Assembly.

The Non-Aligned Movement rejects the use of the Security Council as a tool to pursue national political interests and agendas, since that practice aggravates rather than alleviates situations and runs counter to its mission as enshrined in the Charter. We reiterate the necessity of non-selectivity, impartiality and accountability in the work of the Council. The decision by the Security Council to initiate formal or informal discussions on the situation in any Member State or on any issue that does not constitute a threat to international peace and security is contrary to Article 24 of the Charter. In such cases, there is a need for the Council to remain strictly within the powers and functions accorded to it by Member States under the Charter.

In recent years, the Security Council has been too quick to threaten or authorize enforcement action in some cases, while remaining silent and inactive in others. Furthermore, the Council has increasingly resorted to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not necessarily pose an immediate threat to international peace and security. A careful review of those trends indicates that the Council could have opted for alternative provisions to respond more appropriately to particular cases. Instead of making excessive and quick resort to Chapter VII, efforts should be made to fully utilize the provisions of Chapters VI and VIII for the pacific settlement of disputes. Chapter VII should be invoked, as intended, as a measure of last resort. Unfortunately, provisions of Articles 41 and 42 have in some cases been resorted to with undue speed before other options were fully exhausted.

Finally, as we approach the process to appoint a new Secretary-General for the Organization, NAM underlines its position as elaborated in the Algiers ministerial declaration of May 2014, along with the central role of the General Assembly in the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General, and expresses its support for efforts aimed at reinforcing and strengthening the role of the Assembly in that regard.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Singapore.

Mr. Teo (Singapore): Singapore aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the respresentative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Singapore has for many years called for improvements to the working methods of the Security Council. Our latest proposals are included in the document on Security Council reform circulated by the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly on 31 July.

As a small city-State, we will not have many opportunities to be a member of the Security Council,

but we attach much importance to the issue of the Council's working methods and would like to see quick progress. We therefore thank Spain for convening today's meeting and for its concept note ((S/2015/793, annex) on the theme of this open debate. We would like to focus on three aspects of the working methods of the Security Council.

First, to improve its own effectiveness and accountability, the Council must address the elephant in the room. Too often in the past, the veto has been used to prevent action to address genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes that had led to the loss of many innocent lives. Singapore reiterates its call to the permanent members of the Council to refrain from using their right of veto to block Council action aimed at preventing or ending genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. If they must, they should at least explain to the wider United Nations membership why they cannot support initiatives aimed at preventing or ending mass atrocities. In that regard, Singapore supports the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group's code of conduct on Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. We also support the joint proposal of France and Mexico for the permanent members of the Security Council to refrain from using the veto in cases of mass atrocities. We call on all States Members of the United Nations to do likewise.

Secondly, with respect to transparency and accountability, the Council has been operating on provisional rules of procedure for decades. Many of the current working methods are also captured outside the provisional rules of procedure in successive notes by the President of the Council. Given the importance of the Security Council, that is not ideal. It is time for the Council to adopt its rules of procedure to improve the transparency and accountability of its work. That in turn would enhance the Council's credibility with the wider membership of the United Nations.

Thirdly, with respect to inclusiveness, in order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, the Security Council has been conferred with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. However, the Council should not allow that to prevent it from working with the wider United Nations membership on key issues that affect all Member States. If the Security Council is to act for the benefit of the wider United Nations membership, it should engage the Member States in a virtuous cycle of dialogue and effective decision-making.

Next year, the United Nations membership will need to decide on the next candidate to lead the Organization. We call on the Council to work more closely with the General Assembly, in accordance with their respective mandates as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to make the process for selecting the Secretary-General more open and transparent. Some of the measures adopted in General Assembly resolution 69/321, such as the joint letter by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Council inviting candidates to be presented in a timely manner with a description of the entire process, are a good start. We need to take further steps in that direction.

Singapore welcomes opportunities like today's open debate to discuss the important issue of the working methods of the Security Council. We look forward to a meaningful outcome on this issue that will help to further strengthen the effectiveness and credibility of the Council.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Uruguay.

Mrs. Carrión (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me, Sir, to congratulate you on convening this open debate, which is of great importance to our country, and to thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak for the first time as a member-elect of the Council.

Uruguay aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of Switzerland on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group; of Liechtenstein with regard to the code of conduct; and of Estonia on the election of the Secretary-General. In the spirit of the Spanish presidency's call to refrain from repeating ideas that have already been raised, I shall not linger on the issues already covered by the statements of the delegations just mentioned, but concentrate on a very important point that my country wishes to highlight.

Peacekeeping operations are fundamental tools for the maintenance of international peace and security and are an instrument to which Uruguay has been committed for decades through concrete contributions to the system and through its ongoing contribution to policy discussions held within the Organization with regard to those operations. Therefore, as an actor committed to peacekeeping, Uruguay hopes for success in the processes currently under way to review or consider

United Nations peace operations, peacebuilding and resolution 1325 (2000).

The report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (S/2015/446) and the Secretary-General's report on its implementation (S/2015/682) make it clear that the subject of consultations with troop-contributing and police-contributing countries remains a priority for improving the effectiveness of peacekeeping mandates, in particular through the earlier involvement of those countries in the process of developing such mandates. The need for early consultations with troop-contributing and police-contributing countries in the current context, in which we are witnessing an increase in direct attacks on peacekeepers, and when mandates are becoming increasingly complex, including offensive actions in some cases, has become increasingly important. This means that listening to the voices from the ground will lead to more credible and realistic mandates. Similarly, the triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and Member States at large, in particular the troop-contributing countries (TCCs) and police-contributing countries, also needs to be improved if we are to achieve a true partnership.

As my country has noted in other forums, no new instruments are needed for consultations to be conducted in an efficient manner; the challenge lies in the implementation of the existing ones. The United Nations Charter, Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1353 (2001), and various presidential statements establish and refer to these mechanisms, including provisions for early consultations with TCCs before establishing or renewing new mandates; ad hoc meetings at any stage of mandates, at the request of the TCCs; and information exchange and thematic discussions. In this regard, we believe that there is room to improve the use of these tools, such as anything to do with sharing information, including early access to the reports of the Secretary-General, which my country has insisted on in other areas, for example, during our presidency of the Group of Friends of Haiti when the first draft of resolution 1542 (2004), for the mandate for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, was being prepared.

Finally, the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations is key to improving the interaction between those who are establishing and renewing mandates and those that implement them, as well as with the Secretariat. In this regard, Uruguay remains committed to improving the working methods for the biennium 2016-2017 in which it will sit as a non-permanent member of this body.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Minah (Sierra Leone): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of African States.

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for including the issue of Security Council reform on the Council's programme of work. I would also like to congratulate Spain for its assumption of the presidency for the month of October 2015.

We welcome the concept note circulated by the Permanent Representative of Spain (S/2015/793, annex) and take note of the issues contained therein regarding efforts by the Security Council to improve its working methods. We take note of the improvement in the working methods of the Council, including the use of the informal interactive dialogue, to interact and engage informally with individual Member States, the Peacebuilding Commission and regional and subregional organizations. We also take note of efforts to address issues such as penholdership, chairs of subsidiary bodies, preparation of annual reports and monthly assessments. We consider these to be modest but meaningful steps towards improving the work of the Council.

We note that the main focus of the Security Council's Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Matters has been on the Council's annual report to the General Assembly. We further note that elected members of the Security Council have not made much progress in pushing for the implementation of certain issues and we hope that things will improve in the future.

We encourage the Council to continue to build on the important advances made through further improvement of its working methods by implementing actions outlined in note 5/2010/507 and subsequent relevant notes. We remain convinced that cosmetic changes to the working methods will not advance the fundamental need for comprehensive reform of the Security Council and expansion of its membership in both the permanent and non-permanent categories, as contained in General Assembly decision 62/557. The status quo continues to be inconsistent with the principles, purposes and spirit of the Charter of this great and noble Organization, in

that we have a Security Council in which Africa and other regions remain underrepresented or unrepresented in both categories.

Our continued participation in this debate is firmly rooted in our commitment to working with the entire United Nations membership in achieving comprehensive reform of the Security Council along the lines elucidated in the African Common Position. We therefore reiterate our call for a comprehensive reform as contained in decision 62/557 and, in that regard, we stress the interlinkage of the five clusters of Security Council's reform.

On two of those clusters — the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly, on the one hand, and the working methods, on the other — we have at all times maintained a principled position. Our position is the one we submitted to the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations on 22 April and is reflected in the framework document; it underscores the need to uphold the primacy of and full respect for the provisions of the United Nations Charter that pertain to the powers and functions of the General Assembly. The two clusters remain inextricably linked and, while there has been some convergence of views on how to improve them, key elements of the reform have not come to fruition.

Notwithstanding the efforts made by various delegations, certain proposals that are worthy of consideration remain on the table. These include how to improve transparency and access to the Council and the creation of established rules of procedure for the Council. We maintain that the Security Council and the General Assembly must work closely together within their respective spheres of responsibility to seek solutions to the plethora of challenges confronting the international community, with the Security Council focusing on issues as mandated under the Charter, in order to foster harmonious interaction and a cooperative relationship between the two organs. The relationship between the Council and the General Assembly remains, for all delegations, a matter of paramount importance on the reform agenda.

In January, the Security Council underscored the interlinkages between security and development, including their mutually reinforcing nature. It is therefore key that we remain focused on this aspect as a means for attaining sustainable peace. Maintaining the balance between the two principal organs of the United Nations: the Security Council and the General Assembly, is extremely necessary in order to enable the United Nations to meet existing and emerging threats. It is also necessary for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1). The role of the General Assembly, including questions relating to international peace and security, as provided for in the relevant Articles of the Charter, need to be enhanced and strengthened in order to enable it to play its proper role as the most representative and democratic policymaking body of the United Nations.

We commend the enhanced cooperation between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Security Council, which has led to a more structured and effective annual consultation between the two bodies. We continue to urge for the enhanced coordination between them in order to ensure predictable and sustained funding for African Union peacekeeping operations and to support post-conflict reconstruction and development on the African continent. Sustained cooperation between the Council and regional organizations will yield immense benefits in addressing the present and future challenges to international peace and security. Despite these positive developments, we are concerned about the inconsistency of the Security Council's decisions by its demonstrated selectivity in addressing issues that are of grave concern to regional organizations.

In conclusion, improving the working methods of the Security Council is an integral part of the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council. All five issues of Security Council reform are interrelated and must be addressed in a holistic manner. It has been several decades since the Security Council has been seized of the matter of the review of its working methods. The fact that after 70 years the Council's rules of procedure remain provisional underscores the urgency of addressing this issue.

We note that the main thrust of all the positions of the various groups and delegations has been to ensure that the Security Council becomes transparent, inclusive, accountable and accessible in its working methods. The Group of African States supports those initiatives. We would therefore like to reiterate Africa's readiness to work with all interest groups and Member States to achieve decisive and irreversible progress, but as a comprehensive package of reform, not in isolated silos. General Assembly decision 62/557 continues to

be our guiding light. We remain convinced of the need for comprehensive reform that takes into account the principles, objectives and ideals of the United Nations Charter, for a fairer world based on universalism, equity and regional balance.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Mendonça e Moura (Portugal): While it is a principal organ of the United Nations, the Security Council is, however, restricted in its composition. It acts on behalf of all of us, the Member States — hence the need for transparency in the Council vis-à-vis the general membership to which it is accountable.

As a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group, we associate ourselves with the statement delivered earlier on its behalf by the representative of Switzerland and wish to touch briefly on the following four complementary aspects.

First, open debates such as today's can prove very useful for listening to the general membership's views on various subjects and situations relevant to peace and security and, on the other hand, for enabling Member States to better understand the measures the Council adopts and helping to strengthen their commitment to their full implementation. However, we have to make open debates more efficient. We should be able to conclude a productive debate in a single morning session if we all cooperate in helping to focus on the messages we deem important. So we support the format that Spain has proposed for use in future open debates and, like many others, including Council members, we will abide by the shorter time allotted. Indeed, the proposed format builds on presidential note S/2012/922, which is aimed at increasing efficiency, interaction and transparency in the outcome of open debates.

Secondly, with their specific knowledge of the situations and areas they cover, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the Economic and Social Council can bring new and complementary perspectives to the Council. The Council has already recognized the importance of interaction with them; that is not new. What we need to do now is to put that into full practice and for the presidencies of the Security Council to promote such interaction through their monthly programmes of work, regularly scheduling the Chairs of the PBC and its configurations, and the President of the Economic and Social Council, as briefers in meetings or participants in informal dialogues, as appropriate. We therefore fully agree with the statement made on behalf of other Council members by the representative of Angola highlighting the crucial role of Council presidencies when preparing their programmes of work.

Thirdly, concerning the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council specifically, we see merit in organizing periodic meetings to discuss issues relevant to both their agendas. We are encouraged to hear that the next presidency of the Security Council, the United Kingdom, will continue to focus on these important interrelations between security and development. Such interaction could also be channeled through the subsidiary bodies, such as the Sanctions Committees and Working Groups, particularly those on peacekeeping and conflict prevention.

Fourthly, the Council's consultation with the PBC and the Economic and Social Council could become part of a much broader aspect, conflict prevention. And to respond to the challenge issued this morning by the representative of the United Kingdom to put forward concrete suggestions, we propose that the Council do some thinking on how to make better use of the subsidiary bodies, including existing Working Groups, to capture the signs of emerging challenges to peace and security that are closely connected to the larger development agenda — such as climate change, pandemics, illegal trafficking and organized crime — and submit timely reports on them to the Council when they deem action to be necessary. I want to emphasize that we are not talking about endless meetings that merely prolong decision-making. We know that the Council is an action-oriented body, not a debate forum, but the inclusion of these bodies' perspectives in Council meetings can, if efficiently conducted, be extremely important to more coherent decision-making in the United Nations.

The diversity of the United Nations is its strength. Today, security is linked to many aspects that we see dealt with across the United Nations system. The Security Council should not insulate itself from such experience, indeed, it can only benefit from it. We hope that the members of the Council can reflect on that fact and establish a practice that allows such interaction to occur regularly, without of course overburdening the Council's already heavy workload.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Ms. Çalışkan (Turkey): We would like to join others in thanking you, Mr. President, and today's briefers.

The issue of the Council's working methods is one that has a direct impact on our Organization's most critical undertakings. Although we consider the subject to be one of the main components of Security Council reform, there is still room for further improvement before we reach general agreement on the matter. That said, at the outset we would like to state that many of the challenges we face daily in the Organization are a result of a lack of transparency, accountability and effectiveness in the Council and of its undemocratic nature. To some degree, we can only address these problems by increasing the number of elected members.

The use of the veto is one of the most pressing issues we have to tackle. It is almost impossible to tell whether a country is motivated by the desire to maintain international peace and security or by national interest. In any case, the result is inaction on the part of our Organization's principal body, whose primary task is the maintenance of international peace and security. In that regard, we welcome the initiatives of France and Mexico, as well as of Liechtenstein, on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group, aimed at limiting the use of a negative vote by permanent or non-permanent members in cases of mass atrocities. We support both initiatives. However, we do not think that the idea of a code of conduct for non-permanent members can be meaningful unless the permanent members also embrace it.

Our discussion of working methods also covers the relationship between the Council and other bodies of the United Nations. One particularly important topic on today's agenda is the selection process of the next Secretary-General, an issue connected to the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly. This year we are witnessing a thorough discussion of the matter that includes civil society as well as Member States. The General Assembly's recent resolution 69/321, on the revitalization of its work, includes landmark provisions, as others have mentioned. However, since it includes no references to deadlines or numbers of candidates to be recommended by the Council, we think the current situation has a long way to go in addressing the structural shortcomings of the process.

Regular and more substantive interaction between the Council and other United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, would not only augment the Council's transparency, openness and inclusiveness but would also enhance the efficiency of the United Nations system in general.

Needless to say, the dialogue between the Council and non-Council members is one of the critical aspects of our discussion today. Although we are cognizant of the need for the Council to conduct its own deliberations during its decision-making process, we think there is much room for improvement in terms of increasing the transparency of its work. In that regard, scheduling more informative briefings and Arria Formula meetings, ensuring that draft resolutions, presidential statements and information on the work of the subsidiary bodies, as well as their reports, are made available in a timely manner, and, last but not least, reducing the frequency of closed meetings are what we need if we are to have meaningful interaction.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. De Aguiar Patriota (Brazil) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank the Spanish delegation for organizing today's important debate on the working methods of the Security Council.

(*spoke in English*)

I would also like to thank the President of the General Assembly for his briefing and to commend Ambassador Gaspar Martins of Angola for his leadership in his capacity as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions.

Brazil has long advocated that the Security Council should be more transparent, more accessible to the other Member States of the United Nations and more accountable to the broader membership on whose behalf it acts. The Council should carry out its work in an open and public manner as often as possible. In line with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, Brazil has also been calling for countries with a special interest in a substantive matter under consideration by the Council to have their views fully taken into account and to be allowed to participate in its consultations. That applies particularly to those countries on the Council's agenda, but also to troop- and police-contributing countries. We understand that this is an important topic that should

addressed as the review process for peacekeeping operations and special political missions progresses.

In the context of discussions on the review, the consultations among the Security Council, the troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat should become more institutionalized. In this regard, the positive experience of the Group of Friends of Haiti could be replicated. This body should also consider new ways to improve the participation of regional and subregional organizations in its decision-making process. We have also long advocated that the Security Council should spend more of its time and effort on prevention. In this context, allow me to welcome once again the strong emphasis given by the High-level Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, chaired by President José Ramos-Horta, to the primacy of politics and to preventive diplomacy, and underline the importance of translating the Panel's recommendations into concrete strategies.

There is wide recognition that voting in the Security Council should be carried out in ways that favour our Charter responsibilities with respect to collective security. There are currently two initiatives under discussion by member States that touch upon this issue — one by France and the other by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group. We welcome the French proposal on the veto, as that initiative reflects the widespread perception that the Council has not been able to adequately fulfil its Charter responsibilities in certain particularly problematic situations. The ACT code of conduct also points to the necessity and urgency of updating the working methods of the Council. The code can be seen as a constructive contribution to the debate on voting patterns to the extent that it highlights the fact that the international community's response to mass atrocities should not lie at the sole discretion of permanent members. We believe, however, that such a code should also address certain other aspects relating to prevention and accountability.

The twenty-first century provides us with abundant and tragic evidence that the resort to military force more often than not increases civilian suffering and vulnerability. Therefore, it would have been important for ACT's code to emphasize two notions in particular. The first is that military action is a measure of last resort that can take place only in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and after a judicious analysis of its possible consequences. The second is that decisions authorizing the use of force should rely on enhanced procedures for monitoring and assessing their implementation in order to ensure compliance with the original mandate and with international law.

Apart from the United Nations membership, many civil society actors are expressing a strong interest in the process of selecting the next Secretary-General. Important initiatives outside the United Nations — such as, the "1 for 7 Billion" campaign and a proposal by the group known as The Elders — have been launched, calling for more transparency and inclusiveness in the selection process. This is a topic closely related to the working methods of this organ and, in particular, to its relationship with the General Assembly. Brazil supports a more active role for the General Assembly in nominating the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 97 of the Charter and in line with our commitment to democratic and transparent procedural practices.

Regarding the relationship between the Security Council and other United Nations bodies, closer cooperation is needed not only with the General Assembly — particularly concerning the issue of Security Council encroachment on the Assembly's prerogatives — but also with the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Brazil believes that the Council should make better use of the advisory function of the PBC. As I can testify from my own experience, there is scope for additional value added to the Council's deliberations when Chairs of PBC configurations are invited to informally meet Council members, before a situation they follow closely is up for consideration.

One of the most easily implemented recommendations of the Advisory Group of Experts for the 2015 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture, contained in its report "The challenges of sustaining peace", is for the Security Council to regularly request and draw upon the advisory, early-warning and preventive roles that the PBC can play to enrich the peacebuilding dimensions of mandates. We take this opportunity to encourage all Member States, not least the members of the Council, to fully engage in the intergovernmental phase of the peacebuilding architecture review, which was recently launched by the two co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia.

When discussing the working methods of the Security Council, one cannot help but note that the permanent five (P-5) have a significant edge in mastering the

procedures and legal intricacies of the Council's work. The so-called penholders for resolutions are almost invariably permanent members. To a great extent, this happens because newly elected members, for obvious reasons, take some time to adjust to the complexity of the Security Council's working methods. However, under improved working methods, non-permanent members should not only take part in the negotiations from the early stages of the process onwards, but also take on greater drafting responsibilities. The contribution of non-permanent members can be of great relevance to overcoming impasses. Let us not forget that one of the most constructive initiatives regarding the situation in Syria, which led to the adoption of resolution 2139 (2014) on humanitarian access to the country, was conducted by three non-permanent members. Let us also recall that resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, came about through the persistence of elected members, under the leadership of Namibia, 15 years ago.

It is difficult to see how we will be able to significantly improve the working methods of this organ without tackling the need to expand it. In the view of a majority of United Nations Member States, the best way to enhance the Council's dynamics with a view to ensuring that its decisions become more effective and legitimate is through the creation of new permanent and non-permanent seats. That would allow for countries committed to a more transparent, efficient, accessible and accountable Security Council to acquire the expertise and ability required to help modernize the Council from within. The improvement of the working methods of the Security Council will depend to a great extent on a comprehensive reform that brings the Council closer to the contemporary world. That is why the working methods cluster is one of the five key interrelated issues of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, as established by General Assembly decision 62/557.

In conclusion, in the same vein as the intervention made by my colleague from Sierra Leone, I would like to stress that the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations and the current session of the General Assembly represent an invaluable opportunity to achieve a concrete outcome regarding this long overdue task of Security Council reform.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Paraguay.

Mr. González Franco (Paraguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Republic of Paraguay takes this opportunity to reaffirm our position on the working methods of the Security Council, as expressed in statements we have made in discussions on reform of this organ. Paraguay believes that in addressing the working methods of the Security Council, the key issues are transparency, participation, accountability and efficiency.

Transparency is a feature that should permeate all levels of deliberation and decision-making in the Council. One crucial aspect in that regard is the holding of open meetings of the Council. As the Council works today, open meetings seem to be the exception and not the rule — a situation that prevents non-member States from having any effect on the Council, particularly in the adoption of its decisions.

The issue of participation is twofold. The first aspect of participation exclusively involves the States members of the Council, whereas the second involves non-members. With regard to the first, we believe that non-permanent members should participate on an equal footing with permanent members. The treatment of certain items as reserved and withheld exlusively for the permanent members and not to be addressed by non-permanent members is a discredit to the work of the multilateral system and restricts the rights of the latter as members of this organ. With regard to the second, Paraguay feels that measures should be taken to allow non-permanent members of the Council to participate in matters that are addressed by the permanent members, particularly when they involve issues that affect those countries or the Organization. To this end, these subjects should be made known with sufficient time in advance.

With regard to accountability, it is essential to recall that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the members of the Council act on behalf of all States Members of the United Nations. This implies a particular and special commitment. Acting on behalf of everyone requires responsible action and, therefore, accountability. In this regard, we call for the annual reports of the Council to the General Assembly to contain a substantive analysis and not simply a list of facts or a summary of meetings and decisions adopted.

Finally, let us address the issue of efficiency. The Council's working methods must ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of this organ, which will require improving its capacity to respond in a timely

and appropriate manner to issues that are vital to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Paraguay expresses its firm desire for the selection of the next Secretary-General to be undertaken through a transparent, dynamic and inclusive process in which the Security Council and the General Assembly act in a coordinated and complementary manner.

In conclusion, we know that some members of the Council believe that only they have the authority to choose their working methods. However, at various points in the past we have seen this organ heed the concerns of the General Assembly or of non-member States, and in this regard it has incorporated suggestions, proposals or specific contributions to improve, correct or optimize its working methods. That is why we ask that the outcomes of this debate be taken up by the members of the Security Council.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica.

Mr. Mendoza-García (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): Costa Rica would like to thank Spain for convening this open debate on the Security Council's working methods, and the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Sven Jürgenson, for their opening statements.

Allow me to address two specific points. First, my delegation recognizes the importance of deepening communication between the Security Council and other bodies and actors in order to allow the former to effectively carry out its tasks. This communication should be much more fluid and dynamic, not only with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat, but also with the Peacebuilding Commission, the Special Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General, and especially with the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.

This communication should also extend to regional and subregional organizations, troop-contributing countries and civil society organizations that, through the Arria Formula format, have the opportunity to directly influence the Council's work. The fact that 15 Arria Formula meetings have been held this year is worth noting with appreciation.In that regard, we also commend the work of the non-permanent members of the Security Council and urge them to use all means at their disposal to ensure that the Council increases both its transparency and its effective engagement with other relevant stakeholders.

This brings me to the second point that I should like to highlight in this debate — the importance of the role of the Secretary-General, whether through his good offices in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter, or through initiatives such as "Rights up front". The election of the next Secretary-General will be a golden opportunity to increase the equality, transparency, predictability and inclusivity of this process and to further strengthen the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council, as it is a decision taken not by the 15 members of the Council alone but by the entire membership.

Costa Rica would urge us all to take advantage of the momentum surrounding the adoption of General Assembly resolution 69/321, on the revitalization of the General Assembly's work, by launching as soon as possible the process to determine who will occupy the role of Secretary-General as of 1 January 2017. It is urgent that the process of selection for the next Secretary-General — whom Costa Rica hopes will be a woman — begin as soon as possible with the dispatch of a joint letter from the President of the General and the President of the Security Council. The recently adopted resolution maps the way forward ,and my delegation will attach due importance and attention to the implementation of the process.

My delegation is encouraged that from this point on, and for the first time in history, we will have the opportunity to know the names of the candidates and their platforms and to interact with them. Nevertheless, Costa Rica and other will continue to work to generate the political momentum needed to ensure that the Security Council presents not just one, but two or more candidates to the General Assembly, and that the process include an election, and not simply an appointment.

Rather than ask when we should begin to implement resolution 69/321, the question we should be asking ourselves is why we have taken so long. We ask the same question every year when we find that the Security Council's rules of procedure are still provisional and that, despite the calls of the membership, a plan of action for implementing presidential note S/2010/507 and its subsequent updates has yet to be adopted.

The Security Council is at a critical juncture in terms of its transparency and working methods in general. It can choose to refresh its collaborative energy, renew

the momentum to consolidate current achievements and meet new challenges, or it can retreat to its familiar protocol and close ranks around its own prerogatives, which would negatively impact its effectiveness and legitimacy. We all know that the first of these is the only viable option.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Panama.

Ms. Flores Herrera (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to begin by thanking Spain for having convened this meeting on the working methods of the Council at a moment of fundamental importance for the United Nations as we debate Security Council reform, the new dynamic for selecting the Secretary-General and the changing relationship between the various organs and bodies. In that contect, Panama believes that the time has come for this debate to be revitalized in the light of two interrelated aspects: transparency in the acts of the Organization and ethics as the indisputable guiding principle of the decision-making process of all bodies of the United Nations without exception.

Although the world has been subject to the most diverse changes since 1946, the structures and internal dynamics of the Organization have not necessarily responded to these new realities as required and demanded by the international agenda. The process of Security Council reform today is a matter of growing interest to 97.4 per cent of this community and represents no less than the need for States to ensure that their membership is representative of current geopolitical and regional realities.

The efforts of the 51 Member States, including Panama, that founded the Organization in 1945 are noteworthy and have fulfilled many of their objectives, but the United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, must respond to another historic moment, and the current membership must be open not only to sustaining debate but to encouraging it so as to strengthen a decision-making organ that speaks for the Member States, which now number 193.

After 70 years, the essential functions assigned by the Charter of the United Nations to the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security continue and will continue to be relevantm, but it is beyond doubt that this organ needs to be revitalized so that it will be not only more representative but also more effective, transparent, open and accountable to the international community. That need underlines the importance of the various initiatives aimed at overcoming the right of veto in the Security Council, which in various cases limits the immediate action and efficiency of the United Nations in specific situations or where there is a risk of crimes or violations.

We have expressed our support of the initiative promoted by Liechtenstein and the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group with regard to a code of conduct that would promote the idea of a more democratic Security Council. We also support the initiative of France and Mexico and are following it particularly closely because it reflects the first time that a permanent member of the Security Council has taken leadership in the discussion on revising and updating its own privilege.

Panama has previously stated that diverse participation within the Security Council, particularly on the part of developing countries, would provide greater transparency in decision-making and the implementation of decisions. Likewise, we believe that the veto in the Security Council played its historic role in previous decades following the conflict of the Second World War. Today, however, even the smallest of countries demand that they be treated equally as we are all subject to international law.

I would like to conclude by emphasizing that it is important that we consider the recommendations of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, which, since its establishment, in 1993, has been working on those issues in order to improve and rationalize the modalities and methods used by the Security Council. We acknowledge the opportunity afforded to us by this open debate to consider the question of the Council's working methods. We are encouraged that we are moving in the right direction to come up with the comprehensive reforms that the Organization so urgently requires.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Czech Republic.

Mr. Ellinger (Czech Republic): The Czech Republic would like to thank the Spanish presidency for convening today's open debate on the working methods of the Security Council. The Czech Republic supports strongly the reform of the Security Council, including its working methods. We have expressed our opinion both in the form of an input to the framework document of the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations and during the interactive dialogue in

May. The Czech Republic also wishes to reiterate its support for Ambassador Rattray's efforts to facilitate the intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council, which, 70 years after the birth of the United Nations, is clearly overdue.

We agree with the Spanish concept note (S/2015/793, annex) that there is certainly room for improvement in the way the Security Council interacts with other bodies of the United Nations, notably with the General Assembly. We also feel that open debates with an outcome pre-agreed beforehand do not give rise to an interactive nature for such debates, nor does it give the Member States outside the Security Council a feeling that the reviews matter to this body. We therefore support further debate on how those deficiencies can be remedied. That goes also for draft resolutions and presidential statements, where the exchange with non-member States of the Security Council could also be intensified.

The Czech Republic considers the question of the selection of the Secretary-General to be one of the most important parts of the process. We appreciate the fact that the Spanish delegation has not overlooked that issue. The current way of selecting the Secretary-General is clearly outdated. The Czech Republic fully supports a more transparent process of selection, as set out in General Assembly resolution 69/321, which goes in the right direction. We especially welcome the idea that candidates for Secretary-General should introduce and present themselves to the General Assembly during informal dialogues and meetings. We would be happy to go even further towards transparency and inclusiveness in the selection process.

The Czech Republic also appreciates the efforts to improve and intensify the Security Council's relationship with other United Nations bodies, in particular with the Peacebuilding Commission but especially with the Economic and Social Council. The recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) lends new impetus to the relationship between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council and underlines the important link between security and development.

In that context, we would like to remind delegations of the candidature of the Czech Republic to the Economic and Social Council during the elections to be held tomorrow in the General Assembly. The Czech Republic would like to stress its commitment to Agenda 2030 and supports further building on the link between sustainable development and sustainable peace.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Meza-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to welcome Spain's initiative in convening an open debate on the working methods of the Security Council. I also thank you, Mr. President, for the concept note (S/2015/793, annex) prepared for this meeting.

Peru associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Switzerland on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group, particularly with regard to the importance of General Assembly resolution 69/321 as it pertains to the procedure for selecting the next Secretary-General. We hope that it will be effectively implemented soon.

In signing the Charter of the United Nations all States Members grant to the Security Council the mandate to ensure international peace and security and also undertake to comply with its resolutions. That gives us the necessary legitimacy to express our views with regard to the working methods of this organ. In that context, my delegation would like to reiterate the urgent need to continue to make progress towards reforming the working methods of the Council with the aim of increasing its legitimacy, its necessary transparency in multilateral relations, as well as its efficiency and the effectiveness of its work. In that regard, my delegation would like to share three ideas that have been mentioned by some of the speakers who preceded me, which shows a meeting of minds on so many of these things.

First, in order to find transparency, this organ needs to hold more public meetings, and they need to be substantive meetings and held at the appropriate time. My delegation also favours the scheduling open debates, given that they provide non-members of the Council an opportunity to express their opinions.

Secondly, with regard to the democratization of the Security Council, my country has always expressed a position of principle whose ultimate aim is that that the right to the veto should be eliminated. We are aware of the difficulties of doing that, which is why we support all efforts aimed at restricting the use of the veto. We should point out that, without genuine reform of the working methods as they pertain to the veto, the important concept of the responsibility to protect is at serious risk of being diluted. In that context, Peru supports the political declaration put forward by France

and Mexico aimed at preventing the use of the veto in cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and flagrant violations of human rights law or international humanitarian law. We call upon the other permanent members of the Council to support that initiative. Also in the framework of the ACT group, we have been working towards the adoption of a code of conduct according to which Member States would commit to not vote against a draft resolution of the Security Council aimed at preventing cases of genocide or crimes against humanity.

Thirdly, in order to promote greater interaction and participation, Peru considers it fundamental to consolidate the practice of Security Council consultations with countries that contribute troops to peacekeeping operations. The increasing complexity of the mandates of peacekeeping operations as well as the growing challenges that they face requires ever greater coordination and an exchange of information. The opinions of troop-contributing countries need to be taken into account when mandates are being renewed or designed, as they will have to implement them on the ground.

Finally, as others have pointed out, I should like to stress the importance of moving from a conflict-management approach to a prevention approach. Only an early warning system can prevent conflicts and fully meet the primary objective of our Organization, which is to preserve future generations from the scourge of war.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Munir (Pakistan): We are pleased to see you, Mr. President, presiding over today's open debate of the Security Council.

We fully align ourselves with the statement made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned countries.

Over the years there have been improvements in the Security Council's working methods. That has happened in no small measure due to the persistent efforts of the non-permanent members. Much more, however, needs to be done. In that regard, my delegation would like to highlight the following key points.

The Council must continue to work towards enhancing openness, transparency and inclusivity in its decision-making processes. Member States not serving on the Council nevertheless have high stakes in its decisions, and dialogue with the wider membership is therefore crucial. Effective and consistent implementation of the decision to improve the Council's working methods, including the decision on intra-Council communication adapted from Pakistan's proposal during its last term on the Council, is important.

We should continue to find ways to forge a more robust partnership among the Council, the troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and general membership. Troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries must be closely consulted before the formulation and adoption of peacekeeping mandates. Their involvement in the processes of mission formation will address many issues related to command, control, communication, coordination and inter-mission movements. Such consultations would help peacekeeping missions to adapt to realities on the ground.

A transparent process leading to a balanced representation on the Council's expert panels is required. And the Office of the Ombudsperson needs to be strengthened. There is no justification for limiting its role to only one sanctions committee.

To enhance the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly more public briefings, substantive annual reports by the Council and meaningful interaction between the Council and the Assembly on the annual report of the Council would be helpful. Taking up some of the proposals set out in the letter written last year by the President of the General Assembly in that regard could be a good beginning.

The process of the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General is upon us. The opaqueness of that process is good for neither the Council nor the United Nations as a whole.

Finally, the early election of non-permanent members next year will enable the Council to allocate the Chairs of subsidiary bodies in a timely manner — a demand that we have been making for many years. Perhaps that will also enable the Council to have more penholders from among the non-permanent members.

The Security Council is a master of its own rules of procedure, which unfortunately to date remain provisional. Many of us today are giving our opinions

on what needs to be done. The important question to ask is, How could all this be accomplished? It is a fact that non-permanent members have convened almost all the debates on the working methods of the Security Council. It is a fact worth pondering over. There is an inextricable link between the nature of the membership of the Council and the need felt to make the Council more open and transparent. That link is called accountability.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mr. Reyes Rodríguez (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): We support the statement made by the representative of Iran on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

A genuine reform of the Security Council to transform it into a transparent, representative and democratic organ and which is in line with developments experienced by the United Nations and developments in international relations over the past 70 years continues to be an outstanding issue. Without that reform, the reform of the Organization will be incomplete. Changes to the Security Council's working methods are an essential aspect of its reform. In our view, the changes that have been made to date have been merely formal and do not guarantee the genuine participation of Member States in the work and decision-making within the Council.

Fundamental agreements — above all on sensitive or highly relevant issues — continue to be taken just by the permanent members of the Council and, on occasion, not even by all of them. The remainder of the members have a limited margin to influence the process. The majority of them face the dilemma of accepting or not accepting the final product presented to them without having had a possibility of participating in genuine negotiations that would address their opinions and interests.

The public debates should be the ideal opportunity to channel the contributions of non-member States to the Council in analysing specific aspects on its agenda in order to contribute to the negotiation of draft resolutions and decisions that will be adopted. However, in practice those debates become a formal exercise and the members of the Council do not even wait until the conclusion of the debates before effectively taking their decisions.

In accordance with Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, Member States recognize that the Security Council is acting on their behalf in the exercise of its functions, which implies that it should guarantee genuine participation on the part of the 193 States Members in its work and in its decisions. Cuba reiterates that, at a minimum, it is urgent to make the following changes in the working methods of the Security Council.

There is a need to increase the number of public meetings pursuant to Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter. Closed-door meetings and informal consultations should be held only in very exceptional cases.

The countries concerned should always be allowed to participate in the Council's discussions that directly affect them, pursuant to Article 31 of the Charter.

The Council's resolutions and presidential statements should reflect the views of Member States as expressed in the public debates.

Countries not members of the Council should have access to the subsidiary bodies, including the right to participate in their discussions.

We should formalize the rules of procedure of the Council — which unfortunately continue to be provisional rules, as has been the case now for 70 years — in order to increase transparency and the level of accountability.

We are concerned about the growing trend in the Security Council to consider matters and assume functions that do not fall within its area of competence, increasingly usurping the role assigned by the Charter to other organs of the United Nations, particularly to the General Assembly.

The Council is required to present annual reports to the General Assembly. Such reports should be genuinely analytical and make it possible to adequately evaluate its work, including the reasons that prevented it from taking action in a given situation or specific case in fulfilment of its mandate. We reiterate the need for the Council to present special reports mentioned by the Charter in Articles 15 and 24, which unfortunately continue to go unpublished.

The issue of the veto is intrinsically linked to the Council's working methods, particularly the decision-making mechanism. The veto is an

anachronistic and anti-democratic privilege that should be eliminated as soon as possible.

A more transparent Council will be a more legitimate Council. And an inclusive and accessible Council that takes into account the opinions of the Member States of the Organization would be a more effective Council.

Let us leave aside rhetorical devices as we discuss this important subject. There is no lack of ideas or proposals. What we need is immediate action. Let us once and for all remove the secrecy and lack of transparency in the work of the Security Council, as well as the exclusion of the great majority of the Members of the Organization from its work and its decisions. Let us not delay this task any longer.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

Mr. Tsymbaliuk (Ukraine): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting. I cannot help but note the emblematic side of the fact that the first meeting of the Security Council in which Ukraine is takinig part since its election as one of this body's non-permanent members for the next two years is devoted to the topic of improving the Council's working methods, the very hallmark of Ukraine's electoral campaign. In looking ahead this important issue will be one of the major priorities of Ukraine's non-permanent membership of the Council during the period 2016-2017.

Ukraine has always been a staunch supporter of increasing transparency in the Council's activities and enhancing its interaction with the wider membership of the United Nations and the bodies of the Organization. In that respect, we commend the Spanish presidency of the Security Council for inviting the President of the General Assembly to address the Council at its annual debate on working methods, for the first time in the past eight years.

In our electoral campaign we made a strong case for transforming the Council into a body, open and fully accessible to all States, as well as promoting, as a matter of principle, broad and constructive cooperation with each and every State Member. The United Nations membership can rest assured that we will deliver on that pledge in the next two years. It is through permanent dialogue, consultation and accessibility to all interested delegations that Ukraine will maintain its close contacts with other States, taking into account their legitimate interests in the day-to-day work of the Council.

Next year an important cluster of the Council's working methods will come under the scrutiny of the world community as the United Nations family elects a new Secretary-General. As an incoming non-permanent member of the Council, Ukraine is fully cognizant of its responsibility to contribute to the proper implementation of General Assembly resolution 69/321, which provides that the process of the selection of the Secretary-General shall be guided by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness.

Bearing in mind that the Council's chief responsibility lies in the maintenance of international peace and security, the issue of conflict prevention must feature more prominently in the Council's work. That is of particular importance to countries not represented on the Council that are facing clear and imminent threats to their security. Therefore, preventive diplomacy must become a staple of the Council's work.

Interacting with troop- and police-contributing countries is of particular interest to Ukraine, as an active participant in United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Noting some positive changes in that area, we believe that holding more regular and timely consultations with such countries, both during the elaboration of United Nations peace missions and mandates and throughout the entire life cycle, is crucially important in the ultimate success of those missions. We strongly support the idea that contributing countries must have a stronger voice in the overall decision-making process in the Council.

External aggression against Ukraine made my country and many others take a closer look at the Council's working methods. What became even more crystal clear was the direct linkage between ensuring the effective functioning of the Council and genuine commitment on the part of each and every of its members — the permanent ones in the first place — to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

In that light, an area of a particular concern for us is the use of the veto in the Security Council. In our opinion, that instrument has long outlived its utility and now has a detrimental impact on the Council's performance. We therefore welcome and support the French and Mexican proposal on suspending the use of the veto in cases of mass atrocities, as well as the code of conduct put forward by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group. We encourage all

Security Council members to give due consideration to those initiatives.

Further steps towards the eventual elimination of the veto could be taken in the direction of the non-use of the veto when considering cases of aggression against a United Nations State Member. Blocking the Council's action under such circumstances would run contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter. However, being realists, we realize that the veto will remain with us for at least the foreseeable future. In that regard, we propose that, if the veto is used, the permanent member resorting to it have to explain the reasons for such action, in particular with regard to its consistency with the Charter of the United Nations.

We also believe that there is an urgent need to ensure the proper implementation of paragraph 3 of Article 27 of the Charter, which obliges a party to a dispute to abstain from voting.

In making our contribution to achieving one of the presidency's goals of reducing the overall length of the debate, I will conclude with a final remark. In its future work in the Security Council, Ukraine will strive to enhance the openness and transparency of the Council with the goal of improving its efficiency and restoring its credibility, which has been severely undermined recently.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. Oyarzábal (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are grateful to Spain for its initiative in convening this open debate. As all are aware, during 2014 and 2015, Argentina chaired the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. Based on that experience, we remain grateful to all members of the Council and now wish every success to Angola as it chairs the Working Group and that this will contribute to transparency and accountability in the Council.

The President's concept note (S/2015/793, annex) cites presidential note S/2013/515, which was the first note adopted during the Argentine chairmanship of the Working Group, and which reflected a joint effort on the part of all Council members. The note refers to the dialogue between the Council and Member States and bodies, whether they be part of the United Nations system or not. In our opinion, such dialogue is essential in fulfilling the Council's functions. The organizations mentioned in the presidential note include the Peacebuilding Commission, the International Criminal Court and humanitarian agencies.

The Security Council has a multiplicity of responsibilities, and meeting them requires coordination with other actors. However, Argentina is not in favour of the Council, whose function is the maintenance of international peace and security, absorbing the functions of other bodies. There is a trend, which in my opinion should be discouraged, to raise in the Council issues that go beyond the level of necessary coordination and encroach upon matters dealt with by the General Assembly. That is a dangerous trend, given that the securitization of the United Nations agenda could lead to the Council assuming such matters to the detriment of bodies with universal representation, in particular the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Although it is true that peace and security are mutually interrelated, I want to stress the term "mutually", because that relationship is not only one-way. Just as peace is needed for development, development also promotes peace. However, peace is not the only factor influencing development. My delegation wanted to to make those clarifications because, as a developing country, we must remain loyal to the multiplicity of factors involved and because securitizing the development agenda could lead to over-simplifying the recipes for development and give rise to the temptation of attributing to the Council functions that are of the General Assembly, to the detriment of the Council's own functions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts on the Council's working methods generally.

My delegation attaches great importance — following the holding of open debates — to the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Matters taking into account the areas of agreement among the broader membership as to how the Council works. There are two aspects I would like to mention, as they are issues that delegations repeatedly mention but on which the Council has not made substantive progress.

One such issue is due process in the Council's sanctions committees, in particular when it comes to the listing and delisting of persons. Argentina favours including Ombudspersons in all sanctions committees, beginning perhaps as a first step with the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban.

The other issue pertains to the referrals made by the Council to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Council regularly receives from the Prosecutor of the ICC the reports required by its own resolutions. However, it takes no action in response, even when the Court informs the Council that cooperation required under the Council's resolutions has not been provided. Both issues can affect the credibility of the Council if they are not addressed promptly.

Finally, we cannot fail to mention that the year 2017 is of fundamental importance in that together we must select the next Secretary-General. We call on all delegations to work together to ensure that the process is a genuine election. That is why we welcome General Assembly resolution 69/321, adopted by consensus on 11 September. Although it is not perfect, the resolution served to strengthen the transparency of the process and is a step forward in the right direction. In that regard, we again call on delegations and on the Council to present more than one candidate for the post to the General Assembly. It would also be desirable for at least one candidate to be a woman. Finally, we welcome the very important innovation that the selection and election process begin with a joint letter from the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria.

Mr. Boukadoum (Algeria): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting and for your concept note (S/2015/793, annex). I would like to start by saying that we should keep in mind that we must tackle a two-track reform of the Security Council, one is structural and the other deals with the working methods.

Algeria commends the efforts to hold more open debates, interactive dialogues and monthly wrap-up sessions. However, we strongly believe that the Security Council can do more in terms of its transparency and openness — and thus its effectiveness. Obviously, some steps could be easily taken. I wish to mention open debates as an example. It is rather puzzling that decisions are often made on an issue by the Security Council, and only then does that constitute a reason for initiating an open debate. It is certainly important to have Member States express their opinions, but their opinions should precede decisions.

I would like to highlight some of the measures that my country deems important for improving the efficiency of the work of the Security Council.

First, there is the matter of formalizing of the rules of procedure, which have remained provisional for the past 70 years.

Secondly, the number of public meetings should be increased in accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter of the United Nations. Closed meetings and informal consultations should be kept to a minimum and held only as an exception. The use of what is known as groups of friends or penholders on specific issues needs to acquire perennial relevance through more interaction between members and non-members alike.

Thirdly, the Council should establish subsidiary organs in accordance with the Charter. Wuch organs should report on their activities to the general membership of the United Nations, in an adequate and timely manner.

Fourthly, cooperation between the Council and regional and subregional organizations is crucial. States that have undertaken mediation or good offices initiatives should be given ample opportunity to interact with the Council. Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter ought to be given priority on a more frequent basis. Moreover, with regard to article 99 of the Charter, the Secretary-General has a powerful tool at his disposal. Inclusiveness would most certainly benefit the international community as a whole when it comes to early warning, conflict prevention and resolution and the promotion of peace.

Fifthly, the Security Council should take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly on matters relating to international peace and security, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 11 of the Charter. Issues on the agenda of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council should not be shifted to the Security Council agenda.

Sixthly, we need to have enhanced cooperation between the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Council's report to the Assembly should be more detailed and analytical, and discussions on its contents need to be more comprehensive.

My country, which serves as the coordinator for the Non-Alligned Movement on the question of the revitalization of the General Assembly, has

always strongly advocated for the improvement of the structural relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council. In that regard, the selection of the next Secretary-General and the use of the veto are matters that require our attention, if we want to send the right message and strengthen our collective work in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council is the executive board of the General Assembly. It acts on behalf of the entire international community and is also answerable to it through the General Assembly.

Finally, I would like to stress that the question on the working methods of the Security Council is an integral part of its reform process. I therefore reaffirm the African common position as outlined in the Ezulwini Consensus.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Mminele (South Africa): My delegation expresses its appreciation to you, Mr. President, for organizing this debate, and we welcome the invitation to the President of the General Assembly, Mr Lykketoft, to participate in this important meeting. His participation in this debate is an important step in improving cooperation and coordination between the principal organs of the United Nations. We hope that the Council will invite the President of the Assembly to participate in its work more often. We also thank the Deputy-Secretary-General for his briefing, as well as that by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council.

South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We are especially pleased by the format outlined in the concept note (S/2015/793, annex) drafted by your delegation, Sir, which aims to reduce the overall length of the debate and produce an outcome — with that outcome being drafted after the debate in order to take into account the positions of non-Council members. That is only proper, as, after all, the Council acts on behalf of all os us, not just on behalf of the privileged 15 members.

Over a number of recent years, we have debated ad infinitum the question of Security Council working methods. However, little has happened in terms of implementing the useful proposals put forth by the general membership of the United Nations in terms of improving the Council's working methods. One of the key areas of reform identified has been the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General. In view of the fact that the term of office of the current Secretary-General is drawing to an end, one of the most immediate changes the Council could embark upon would be to increase its engagement with the broader United Nations membership. That could be achieved by the holding of Arria Formula meetings to discuss that matter.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/321, South Africa calls on the Security Council to coordinate closely with the President of the General Assembly in formally starting the process as early as possible. That should be accompanied by a list of criteria, developed in consultation with Member States and drawing on the Charter of the United Nations and additional sources, such as previous Joint Inspection Unit reports on the criteria for senior management positions in the United Nations. South Africa believes that the membership should be kept abreast of developments and that the names of candidates, as well as their curriculums vitae, should be circulated. Member States should also be given an opportunity to formally engage with candidates through a series of interactive dialogues in the General Assembly.

Finally, South Africa fully supports the call for the Council to send more than one name to the General Assembly, in order for the entire membership to make the appointment and for the next Secretary-General to be appointed for only one term of seven years.

South Africa is pleased with the Council's enhanced strategic cooperation with the African Union Peace and Security Council. In that regard, South Africa implores the Security Council to give effect to resolution 2033 (2012), which calls on the Council to elaborate further ways of strengthening relations between the two Councils, including through achieving more effective annual consultative meetings, the holding of timely consultations and collaborative field missions of the two Councils, as appropriate, to formulate cohesive positions and strategies on a case-by-case basis in dealing with conflict situations in Africa.

While we have noted significant areas of improvement in the strategic coordination between the Security Council and the African Union Peace

and Security Council, we are concerned about the inconsistency with which the Security Council coordinates its position with that of the African Union. A recent example in that regard is the situation in South Sudan, where some members of the Security Council were ready to impose sanctions despite the African Union Peace and Security Council being seized with the matter and the unfolding processes at the African Union level. We wish to thank those permanent and elected members of the Security Council that heeded the call of the African Union.

South Africa welcomes the debate on the use of the veto and on restricting the use of the veto, which has featured prominently in discussions over the past few years. While South Africa in principle agrees to a discussion on the use of the veto, we wish to reiterate that the fundamental question that needs to be addressed remains the composition and reform of the Security Council.

We reiterate our stance that improving the working methods of the Council is but a small step in making the Council more effective. The only way to truly and profoundly improve its efficiency is by instituting a substantive reform of the Council to make it representative of the geopolitical realities of this century. It cannot be that in the seventieth year of its existence, the Council still excludes vast geographical areas in its permanent composition.

In that connection, we reiterate our commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus, which seeks to provide Africa with two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats. In tandem with over two thirds of the United Nations membership, we call for the abolition of the use of the veto, which only serves to promote the interests of a few. However, if that does not happen, we believe that the new permanent members of the Council should not be at a disadvantage and should be afforded all the rights and privileges that come with a permanent seat, including the right of veto.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Nepal.

Mr. Bhattarai (Nepal): I would first like to compliment the Spanish presidency of the Security Council this month for having convened this debate on improving the Council's working methods.

Nepal joined the United Nations, together with Spain and many other countries, on 14 December 1955, and has twice served in the Council as a non-permanent member. Throughout this period, Nepal has closely engaged in the Council's work to maintain international peace and security, especially through United Nations peacekeeping. We long to see genuine reform in all aspects of the Council's working methods as well as in its structure.

In this connection, I align my statement with that of the Non-Aligned Movement and wish briefly to make some points in my national capacity.

First, reform of the Council's working methods should not be a half-hearted measure but should reflect the conviction that only through reform can trust in it be built, its efficiency and effectiveness increased and its acceptability cemented.

Such reforms should be complemented by steps to ensure greater coordination with the troop- and police-contributing countries and a balanced revitalization of the Organization as a whole, so as to make it fit for the purpose for which it was created and the challenges it has to confront.

Bringing forward the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council by several months beginning next year is a positive step. We feel that the election of non-permanent members should be further brought forward to allow the elected members at least one full year to prepare for their responsibilities, with a view to helping ensure that their membership substantially enriches the work of the Council.

The Council should not in any way allow the feeling to be perpetuated that it hijacks other bodies' agendas, trumpets them as its own, takes little action and tends to shift the burden of action to others. It must conduct these debates with a truly open mind, proving that important ideas are taken on board and sharing full information for decision-making, without gatekeeping.

In these open debates, the practice of adopting outcomes at the beginning, thus undermining the utility of such debates, must stop. Council members should set an honourable precedent for non-members by making concise and meaningful speeches, rather than asking them to abbreviate their statements on important issues.

The practice of the same countries voting for candidates twice, once in the Council and again in the General Assembly, such as in the case of International Court of Justice judges, should change. Similarly, the term of the Secretary-General should be fixed

and closed to extension to ensure that it is strong and effective, and to prevent the first term from being spent ensuring a second.

Finally, I wish to add that it is time that the United Nations take a leaf out of Nepal's Constitution, adopted last month, to ensure gender balance in top positions. It provides that either the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, and either the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Upper House of Parliament, must be a woman. Similarly, no persons of the same gender or community can simultaneously hold the offices of President and Vice-President of the country.

To conclude, my delegation is convinced that the Security Council must rise to the challenge with courage, determination and accountability, so as to emerge from opacity into transparency and credibility, in the cause of global peace, security and prosperity.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Rwanda.

Mr. Sana (Rwanda): Allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this important open debate on the working methods of the Security Council.

Rwanda aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group, the statement delivered by the representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the statement delivered by the representative of Switzerland on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group.

This year marks important milestones for the United Nations and its wider membership. From socioeconomic development, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to the review of peace operations, peacebuilding, and women and peace and security, Member States and different organizations have acknowledged the importance of adjusting the activities of the United Nations to the context of the world we live in today. There is no doubt that this is a welcome step that, hopefully, will lead to the measurable achievement of sustainable development, with a tangible impact on peace and security.

That is the reason why Rwanda is a strong believer in a collective and inclusive approach when it comes to peacebuilding and development, which are intrinsically linked to security and stability. Peacebuilding and the Economic and Social Council are therefore partners of the Security Council and should actively participate in its meetings and fulfil their mission accordingly.

Today's debate offers an opportunity to discuss how the Security Council can improve its working methods, 70 years after its establishment, in order to reflect the current realities of the world.

Among the many elements raised today by various speakers, allow me to mention a few that we believe can help improve the effectiveness of the Security Council.

Despite the current positive trends in the working methods of the Security Council, we have yet to live up to the expectations of the 2005 World Summit, mainly on efficiency and effectiveness, on transparency and accountability, and on the implementation of Council decisions. In this regard, we hope that the Council will make tangible progress on the issue of penholdership on the basis of the note by the President contained in document S/2014/268, which recognized the right of any Council member to be a penholder. This reform would allow Council members representing the regions affected by conflicts on the Council's agenda to at least share the pen with the current penholders.

On relations with and the role of the General Assembly, let me say that if one person is expected to work for more than 7 billion people, the people that the United Nations represents should have also their say in his or her selection. The selection of the Secretary-General should be characterized by transparency and inclusiveness, in the interests of the credibility of the Organization. Along these lines, we welcome the adoption by consensus on 11 September of resolution 69/321, on the revitalization of the General Assembly. We hope that the recommendations contained in the resolution will be fully implemented. The joint letter calling for a nomination by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council, as well as the conduct of dialogues or meetings with candidates for the position of Secretary-General, is worthy of note and will definitely enhance the transparency and inclusivity of the selection process.

On issues related to the use of the veto, Rwanda believes that there is a need to reform the use of the veto right, as proposed by the ACT group and the France-Mexico and Elders initiatives. Indeed, given the recent history of the Council and its past failures, permanent members should agree on how to refrain from exercising the veto in cases of mass atrocities and genocide. We call on the Permanent Five to

remember the unique responsibility entrusted to them by the Charter and to ensure that their decisions are always guided by the quest for a sustainable solution to conflicts instead of their own geostrategic interests.

Enhancing interaction and dialogue with the wider membership of the United Nations through Arria-Formula meetings or informal interactive dialogues also remains critical in increasing the effectiveness and transparency of the Council. These are very important tools that can be used in order to have a frank exchange of views with a concerned party. In the same vein, consultations among the Council, the Secretariat and the troop- and police-contributing countries, and dialogue with non-Council members, among other things, are critical to the swift implementation of Council resolutions. In addition, it is of great added value for the Council to maintain regular consultations with regional and subregional organizations, including countries that are on the agenda of the Council, for a better outcome in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and prevention. This kind of partnership will help the Security Council move from a culture of the daily management of crises to that of the effective prevention of conflicts.

The Council should also take stock of the wrap-up session in the format of a public briefing, which can provide feedback to Member States. Member States are also strongly encouraged to participate in these important meetings, which are dedicated to the assessment of the activities of the Council, including the progress made, the challenges facing it and its effectiveness.

With regard to the annual report of the Security Council, we hope that in the future the Security Council will consider improving its annual reports by introducing a section dedicated to the assessment of its effectiveness in the reporting period with concrete recommendations on how to act better and faster while maintaining international peace and security.

While we acknowledge the progress achieved so far with regard to the working methods of the Council, much more remains to be done. While waiting for the adoption of a definitive rule of procedures, Rwanda believes that various notes on the working methods of the Council will greatly contribute to a more transparent, democratic and effective Security Council, provided that they are implemented in good faith, which will uphold the equal sovereignty of States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Let me conclude by reiterating Rwanda's position on Security Council reform. As a member of both the African Group and the L.69 group and given our two-year experience in the Council, we believe, more than ever, that the Security Council should be expanded in both categories, with the same rights and privileges, including the right to veto, as long as it exists. In the meantime, it is critical for the Security Council to continue improving its working methods, with a focus on transparency, effectiveness, inclusiveness and fairness.

After all, the Council calls, in every one of its decisions, for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. This is a real test for this body: to reflect exactly what it preaches. Therefore, walk the talk, dear Council members.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kuwait.

Mr. AlJarallah (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf the Group of Arab States. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Council for the current month and for convening this important meeting.

With regard to your concept note (S/2015/793, annex) of 15 October, which includes guidelines for this meeting, and while we emphasize the importance of the topics laid out in note S/2010/507 for improving the Council's efficiency and transparency, the topic of today's meeting — the working methods of the Security Council — is one of the most important of the five key issues put forth in General Assembly decision 62/557 on the reform of the Security Council. I shall therefore focus on the theme of our meeting today.

The growing challenges experienced by the international community and the substantial changes in the international reality since the inception of the United Nations in 1945 have bolstered our resolve to step up our efforts to strengthen the role of the Security Council in order to make it more capable and effective in addressing and overcoming those challenges within a more representative, transparent, neutral and credible context.

The Arab Group underscores that the efficiency of the Security Council is primarily dependent on the reform of its working methods. It is necessary to develop and improve the working methods of the

Council to make them more effective and transparent. Consideration must therefore be given to establishing a permanent rules of procedure, instead of the current provisional rules of procedure, which have been in effect for decades. Also, consideration must be given to increasing the number of Security Council meetings that are open to all members. Furthermore, the States concerned in the questions under discussion by the Council should be allowed a decision-making role in the Council, and such meetings should afford genuine opportunities for contributions from the general membership in the Council debate. Closed meetings and informal consultations should be minimized such that they are the exception rather than the rule.

In addition to consultations with the States concerned and their participation in the Council's decision-making, in accordance with Article 31 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Arab Group also calls on the subsidiary organs of the Security Council and its Committees to report adequately on their activities to the members of the Council. It also underscores the need for the Council to strictly observe the limits of its mandates established in the Charter.

While the Arab Group grasps the importance of comprehensive reform of the Security Council, it recognizes the possibility of taking gradual steps with regard to improving the working methods of the Council. In this regard, we would like to stress our support for the position of the Non-Aligned Movement, established in document A/66/574, including the comprehensive detailed proposals to improve the Council's working methods and procedures, the adoption and implementation of which would effect a qualitative change in the Council's work.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I am pleased to see you, Mr. President, at the helm of the Council for this month. At the outset, I would like to align myself with the statements made by the representatives of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the of Kuwait on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

At the outset, I should like to reiterate my congratulations to you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Council and on organizing this important discussion to review the progress made at the procedural level and with regard to note S/2010/507 by the President of the Council on improving and enhancing the working methods of the Council in a transparent manner that would achieve the aspirations of all States Members of the United Nations, in accordance with the principles of the Charter relating to the competencies and mandates of the Security Council on the maintenance of international peace and security.

I would also like to extend my thanks to you, Sir, for the concept note (S/2015/793, annex), which you circulated to States Members to inform these deliberations.

Reform of the Council's modus operandi and procedures constitutes an important part of achieving comprehensive reform in a manner that establishes equitable geographic representation of the world's continents, especially with regard to Africa, which includes 54 States, and which is the region of concern in 67 per cent of the questions before the Council.

While we are focusing today on the procedures necessary for improving the efficiency of the Council, we underscore the Position of the Non-Aligned Movement concerning the working methods of the Security Council as stipulated in the relevant paragraphs of the final document (S/2011/407, annex I), held in Bali, Indonesia, in May 2011, on the reform of the working methods of the Security Council. With regard to the implementation of presidential note S/2010/507 on the reform of procedural matters, making the Council's daily agenda available to everybody and circulating the monthly journal to all States members are priorities. We appreciate the efforts of some member States, which, while taking over the presidency, have organized a briefing to which all Member States of the United Nations are invited and all the matters on the monthly agenda are reviewed with transparency and objectivity.

With regard to the briefings, despite the increase in open meetings, it is a universally acknowledged truth that the majority of the Council meetings are closed consultations for only Council members and members of the Secretariat whose guidance the Council is seeking. Transparency and objectivity require that the States concerned can participate in such consultations.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of fostering the principle of consultation and cooperation between the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the letter and spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

We also recall that the rights of Member States are safeguarded in the Charter and the Council's provisional rules of procedure with regard to the participation of any Member State in open meetings, in accordance with rules 37 and 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There are a number of matters of concern to the Sudan currently under discussion in the Council, which manages its proceedings according to Article 34 of the Charter. In our experience, Member States must share any matter that concerns them and, when dealing with such matters, the Council should allow adequate time to the States concerned when undertaking any procedure. The matter should also be accorded further attention when it or its manifestation coincides with a weekend, as may be the case with developing events. After all, the Security Council must focus first and foremost on the maintenance of international peace and security.

We appreciate the efforts on the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. We look forward to the outcomes and recommendations of the Working Group in accordance with the annual report to be presented by the Council to the General Assembly so that all States will be able to participate in the recommendations and outcomes.

(*spoke in English*)

In conclusion, with regard to Chapter VII of the Charter, I would like to recall part of a statement delivered in the Security Council six decades ago:

> "A very sharp instrument has been entrusted to the Security Council by the United Nations under Chapter VII of the Charter, and the Security Council must be careful that this instrument is not blunted".

I believe that statement is still valid and is even more relevant today.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Tunisia.

Mr. Khiari (Tunisia): I understand that the last speaker has until six o'clock to deliver his statement. At the outset, let me thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this open debate on the Security Council's working methods as well as for the comprehensive concept note (S/2015/793, annex) you have presented as a guide for this discussion. I would like to also take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected members of the Security Council — Egypt, Senegal, Japan, Ukraine and Uruguay. My delegation wishes to highlight the following key aspects that we believe are of particular importance for the reform and the improvements of the effectiveness and the transparency of the Security Council.

In accordance with Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have conferred upon the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, while recognizing that the Council acts on behalf of all Member States when fulfilling its duties. Therefore, to ensure the accomplishment of that mandate in a transparent and efficient way, we believe that it is imperative for the Council to further improve its openness and its communication with the broader United Nations membership.

In that context, Tunisia welcomes the progress made during the past few years, in particular in the implementation of the presidential note S/2010/507. Nevertheless, we think that more efforts should be exerted to fully implement the measures set out in the note and to ensure greater coordination and dialogue between the Security Council and non-members of the Council, particularly countries involved in the decisions of the Council, and the troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as with relevant regional and subregional organizations and the Peacebuilding Commission.

We also welcome the commitment made by the members of Security Council through presidential note S/2013/515 to make more effective use of public meetings, interactive dialogues, wrap-up sessions and Arria Formula meetings. Those practices contribute to increase the transparency, credibility and ability of the Security Council in carrying out its mandate and addressing emerging challenges. Private meetings and informal consultations should be kept to a minimum and ought to be the exception rather than the rule.

With regard to the issues you have highlighted in your concept note (S/2015/793, annex), Mr. President, my delegation strongly believes that it is crucial to improve the cooperation and the dialogue between Security Council and other United Nations bodies, mainly the General Assembly. A rich dialogue and collaboration between the two will enhance both entities and avoid overlap between their activities

and the encroachment of the Security Council on the functions and prerogatives of the General Assembly.

On the other hand, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) lends new impetus to the relationship between the Security Council and the United Nations Economic and Social Council. As stated in presidential statement S/PRST/2015/3, security and development are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing and key to attaining sustainable peace.

Similarly, as rightly pointed out in the concept note, the fulfilment of the functions entrusted to the Secretary-General by Articles 98 and 99 of Charter of the United Nations requires joint efforts and close collaboration with the Security Council, so as to ease the task of the Secretariat in undertaking good offices, promoting political settlement and peacekeeping, and implementing peace agreements and sanctions regimes.

I would also like to address the process of the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General. My delegation underlines the role of the General Assembly in the process, which should be transparent and inclusive and take into consideration an equal and fair distribution of candidates based on gender and geographical balance.

On the right of the use of the veto, we are of the view that the exercise of that right should be restrained in cases of mass atrocities. We furthermore believe that the initiative introduced by France and the one launched by the Accountability Coherence and Transparency group, led by Switzerland and Liechtenstein, represent appropriate steps in that direction.

Finally, let me ensure you, Sir, of the commitment of Tunisia to continue its support for improving the work of the Security Council as part of a comprehensive and inclusive approach in the context of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, in accordance with General Assembly decision 62/557.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Hahn Choonghee (Republic of Korea): My delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Spain on its successful presidency of the Security Council this month. We also welcome Spain's initiative to convene today's open debate on the working methods of the Security Council. We also thank the President of the General Assembly, the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for their briefings this morning.

We recognize that, in addition to the Security Council's relationship with non-members of the Council, its interaction with those bodies represents an important dynamic that can improve the overall performance of the United Nations. Against that backdrop, the Republic of Korea would like to make several comments on the working methods of the Security Council.

First, improving the working methods of the Security Council is indeed an important issue for the United Nations membership as a whole. During our term as a member of the Council, the Republic of Korea made the utmost effort to promote transparency in the Council's work and to improve its interaction with the wider United Nations membership. Outside the Council, we continue our involvement on issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security — through various formats made available by the Council, such as Arria Formula meetings, informal interactive dialogues and open briefings by various Special Representatives and Special Advisers. We therefore urge Council members to continue to make such occasions available as much as possible.

Secondly, the Security Council's cooperation and interaction with other bodies of the United Nations is also very much desired. This morning's briefers — representing the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission — all expressed their desire to interact more closely with the Security Council. Coincidently, the Republic of Korea currently belongs to all three bodies and will make its best efforts to transform such an aspiration into substantive and practical improvements, starting with the ongoing intergovernmental process of reviewing the peacebuilding architecture. As President of the Economic and Social Council and as a member of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to how peacekeeping could dovetail with peacebuilding, while taking into account the visionary global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), in particular Goal 16, on peace, justice and institutions. In that regard, we look forward to working with the members of the Security Council in the months and years to come.

My delegation is also strongly committed to implementing the recommendations of the report (S/2015/682) of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. In particular, the call for Security Council's early engagement in conflict situations and more in-depth dialogue with the Secretariat and troop contributors should be given due attention. On its part, in Seoul this Thursday and then early next year, the Republic of Korea will host a series of international conferences on ways to implement the recommendations.

Finally, on the issue of the selection of the next Secretary-General, my delegation welcomes General Assembly resolution 69/321, on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, adopted 11 September. The Republic of Korea is of the view that the selection process of the Secretary-General should be more participatory and transparent, as reflected in paragraphs 29 and 30 of that resolution. Overall, we believe that an important topic for discussion among the general membership has begun. We hope it will lead to a convergence of views that will improve the way that the Organization selects its most prominent officer.

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea has long supported the idea that the working methods of the Security Council must be improved with a view to enhancing the Council's transparency, accountability, legitimacy and efficiency. We view that as an important matter within the broader context of Security Council reform. The Republic of Korea appreciates all the efforts made thus far by various delegations. We stand ready to work with others to formulate a solution that can garner the support and understanding of the broader membership.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): We have heard the last speaker in today's debate. I mentioned this morning that it was my intention to take the floor in my national capacity at the end of this debate. I will therefore now make some comments and observations in such capacity — but I may perhaps not adhere to the three-minute rule.

I have had a team of people from the Spanish Mission and the Secretariat here during the entire day, following with great attention each and every statement made. The team has noted the various proposals made by the members of the Security Council as well as, of course, non-members. I think that the summary I now have before me intelligently and very well distils all the currents of opinion among the membership of the United Nations. This is just a first summary; later on I will make a more detailed, written proposal to the Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, namely, the Ambassador of Angola. Six main themes were raised today.

The first is the importance of the Security Council's working methods. Almost every speaker pointed out that, while it is the prerogative of the Council to adopt its rules of procedure, the impact of its authority means that the rules affect all of us.

We have also noted full agreement on the relevance of open debates — and I have personally heard so in the last statements made today. Such meetings are important in making it possible for the Council to assess the interactive nature and effectiveness of its work and to note the contributions of the membership. In that connection, the representative of Nepal, the representatie speaking on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group, the observer of the Holy See, and the representatives of the Czech Republic and India, among others, called for follow-up to the debates and that the product of such encompass relevant contributions by Member States in the course of the debates. That is exactly what Spain is endeavouring to do today.

There have been many other substantive advances in the work of the Security Council, as reflected in the various presidential notes. I join the overall commendation of the efforts by the members of the Council and by the leadership of the Chair of the Informal Working Group.

The second theme has to do with practical implementation. Many Member States, including the representatives of Panama and Peru, underscored that the practical implementation of those notes was essential. I now want to point out some of the many suggestions made today for strengthening the Council's political effectiveness.

The representative of the United Kingdom suggested lending greater dynamism to consultations. Speaking on behalf of several members of the Council, the representative of Angola referred to the need for greater restrain when proposing Security Council products. The representatives of Venezuela and Uruguay spoke about a more inclusive process for drafting resolutions and presidential statements. The representative of the Russian Federation and the speaker on behalf of the

ACT group called for reviewing the penholder system in order to foster greater participation by the members of the Security Council. And the representatives of Lithuania, Japan and Pakistan spoke of the need to hold a discussion on the assigning and handover of the chairmanships of the subsidiary organs.

The use of the veto was raised by almost every delegation. The Mexican and French initiative was the subject of particular mention, as was the code of conduct proposed by the ACT group with regard to the Council's action in connection with genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Many others referred more broadly to the reform of the Security Council.

Transparency was the third major theme. In a general way, speakers recalled that, in acting on behalf of all the States Members of the United Nations, it is legitimate to expect that the Council's work is transparent, inclusive, accountable and in line with current reality. In that regard, the representatives of Algeria, Cuba, Finland, speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, and Thailand called for the Security Council to step up its practice of holding public meetings and to hold consultations only when necessary. Speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned countries, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran highlighted the usefulness of monthly summaries, which inform the Council's annual report.

The representative of Switzerland, speaking on behalf of the ACT group, as well as the representatives of France, Germany and Mexico, emphasized their interest in monthly briefing meetings by the Council's Presidents. Spain intends to continue that practice and will convene an informal meeting open to the entire membership, to which we will also invite the members of the Council, in order to lay out what has transpired during this month. That will be a joint exercise involving the presidency and the members of the Council.

The fourth theme has to do with cooperation with other organs. There was clear consensus on the need for the Council to maintain close cooperation with other bodies of the United Nations and with regional bodies. It was felt that there was much room for improvement and that it was urgent to to do so.

On behalf of various Council members, the representatives of Portugal and Angola stressed that the manner in which the Council organized its monthly programme of work should seize the opportunity to maintain constant interaction with the Secretariat, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as with other organs of the United Nations system. Many noted that the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1) provides an opportunity for collaboration among the Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The representatives of Australia, Chad, China, Brazil and Ukraine stressed the importance of such cooperation in conflict prevention, and many delegations emphasized the importance of using the early warning capability of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The representatives of Nigeria, Egypt, Sierra Leone, speaking on behalf of the African Group, Pakistan, and the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the Benelux countries, among many others, highlighted the need for greater Council interaction with other organs and entities, including troop-contributing countries, regional organizations and stakeholders and the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General. Some delegations, including Italy and Lithuania, explicitly referred to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, while the delegations of Germany and France in particular mentioned the International Criminal Court.

The fifth theme, which raised a great deal of interest among all the delegations, was the appointment of the next Secretary-General. Most speakers identified the appointment of the next Secretary-General as one of the key decisions that we will have to take and called for greater transparency and involvement on the part of the membership in the process. The representatives of South Africa, Guatemala, Turkey and Costa Rica stressed the need for the Council to submit the names of various candidates to the Assembly. The representative of Mexico suggested that the candidates could be met in Arria Formula meetings, while the representatives of Colombia, Argentina, Poland and Venezuela, among many other delegations, stressed the importance of there being women candidates.

With today's debate, Spain trusts that it has contributed to what should be the result of a transparent and inclusive dialogue between the Council and the General Assembly.

The sixth theme is follow-up, which is a truly fundamental because without it the debates remain theoretical and the ideas presented never become grounded in texts. Reforming the working methods is a dynamic process. Therefore, Spain plans to grant the

request of many delegations to follow up on today's debate with a summary of the recommendations that were made in our discussions and which go well beyond the points that were highlighted, with the intention of guiding the Informal Working Group going forward. We welcome Member States' contributions in that regard, for which we thank them in advance.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

There being no further speakers on my list, I warmly thank all participants.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.